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NEXUS

THE ALTERNATIVE NEWS MAGAZINE

December 2017 – January 2018
Vol. 25, No. 1
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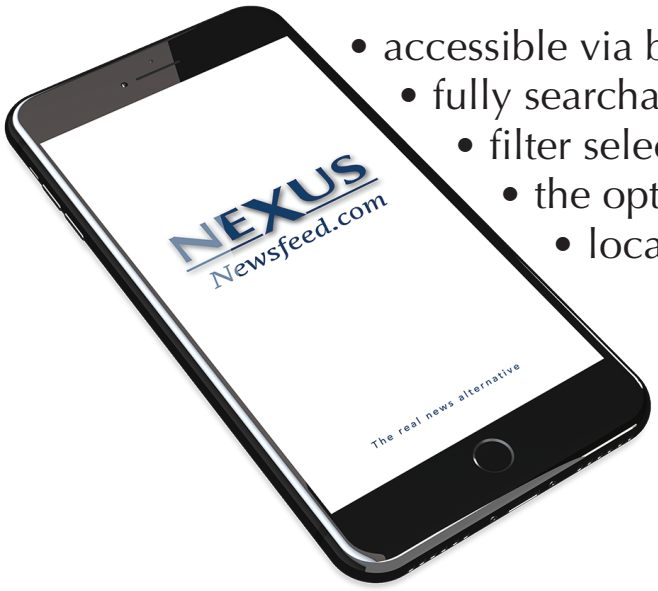

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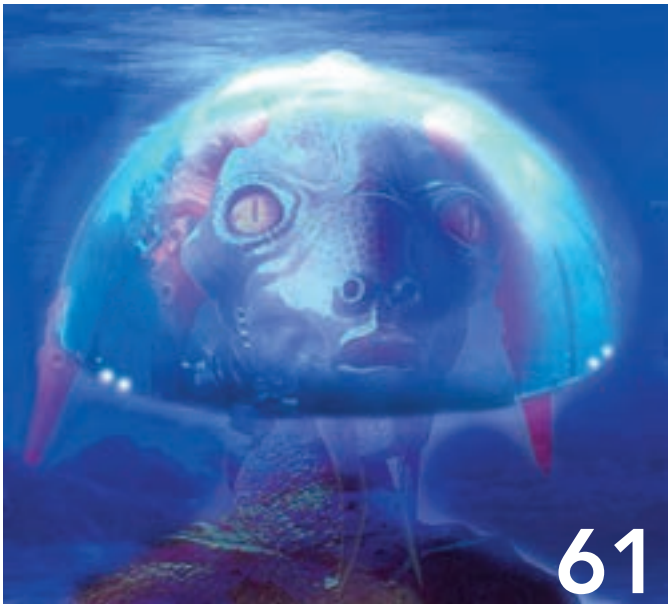

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
NEXUS recognises that humanity is undergoing a massive transformation. With this in mind, NEXUS seeks to provide 'hard-to-get' information so as to assist people through these changes. NEXUS is not linked to any religious, philosophical or political ideology or organisation.

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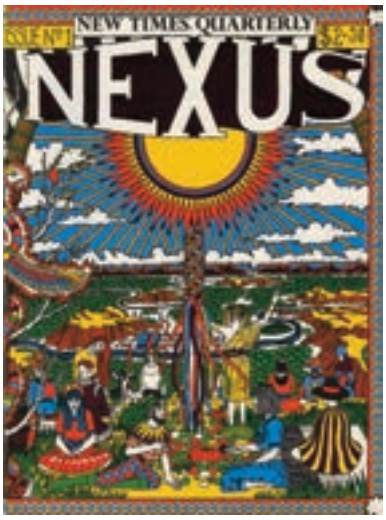
Thirty Years of NEXUS!

Greetings, and welcome to the 30th anniversary edition of NEXUS Magazine! The first issue was published in Autumn 1987; the cover is featured below. Thanks to the advent of Apple desktop computers, it was a golden era for small magazine publishers, most of whom catered for local or niche readers across a variety of subjects. I took over NEXUS in mid-1990 and changed the contents and direction to reflect the topics I was most interested and experienced in. I consider myself politically neutral, and NEXUS has reflected this by avoiding the traditional left- versus right-wing narrative. Thus both NEXUS and I have been varyingly referred to as left wing, right wing, pro-Israeli and anti-Semitic, depending on who was doing the attacking. Some have gone so far as to claim that I'm a Freemason, a Libyan secret agent, a Rosicrucian, a Scientologist—and even a shape-shifting Reptilian!



My background, however, is very much grass roots. I was raised on a small farm in northern Tasmania; my family had migrated there from the UK in the early 1960s. We were not well off, and so we grew or killed and cured most of our food. In the early 1970s, my parents switched to organic gardening and farming, began meditating, and read dozens of books on spirituality. I left home at 15 and hitchhiked to Sydney, where I immersed myself in the ever-growing world of alternative health, spirituality, peace and environmental issues. I ran alternative bookshops, organised lecture tours and conferences, and created a free what's-on magazine called *Southern Crossings*. A few years later, I worked at *Simply Living* magazine, and it was there that my interest in suppressed and ignored information took full bloom.

In 1986, I was commissioned to write an article on conspiracy theories, and a few months later I found myself in Libya, meeting people such as Muammar Gaddafi, Yasser Arafat, Stokely Carmichael and others on the West's "hit list" at the time. I was intrigued to discover that Gaddafi was trying to create an alternative to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and was warning of a coming New World Order backed by a global cashless currency.

In the mid- to late 1980s, I created the Organisation of Mad Scientists, which later evolved into ASTRO (the Alternative Science and Technology Research Organisation). At that time I met Yull Brown, the so-called inventor of Brown's Gas, which NEXUS reported on in its early years. Brown's Gas also has health benefits, as you'll read here in the article by Walter Last with George Wiseman.

Through my travels and research into conspiracy theories, I have met insiders and whistleblowers from numerous countries. All of them have expanded my understanding of how western society is actually run and controlled. There is more I could say and publish on this, but certain people are still alive and I don't wish to hasten their departure by breaking my promises to keep their secrets.

For 30 years, people have taken and used the information from NEXUS to improve their lives, increase their choices and expand their awareness.

I feel I've had the best job in the entire universe, and for that I thank you all.

– Duncan

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LETTERS

BioMats and Rife Healing

Hi Duncan: My husband Harry was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma last November (2016), and he had a huge tumour in one testicle plus one around the aorta higher up. He decided to purchase the smaller BioMat and then later the larger one, and he spent an hour each day lying on the big one, sandwiched with the smaller one. His tumour shrank amazingly.

We also bought a Rife machine (the Spooky2 version), and we both spend two hours [per day] having anticancer frequencies beamed at us via a plasma ball.

The result is that Harry is now in better health than he has been for the past seven years, in spite of his oncologist telling him he would die within months if he did not take chemotherapy. After two sessions of chemo, he was so sick that he swore he would rather die than continue it. I have a good mind to write a letter to his oncologist, explaining what we have done.

It goes to prove that it is more dangerous to follow the medical model than to do one's own research and follow an immune-boosting program. BioMat and Spooky2 are essential treatments.

Best wishes,

Mariana F., NSW, Australia

Reducing Harmful EMF Effects

Dear Duncan: Further to the comments of Carolyn Dean, MD, ND, on magnesium deficiency and EMF (Letters 24/06), Joseph Mercola, DO, suggests:

"…since we now know the effects of EMFs are reduced by calcium-channel blockers, a natural solution would be to make sure you're getting enough magnesium. Most people are deficient in magnesium, which will worsen the impact of EMFs [electromagnetic fields]."

Dr Mercola quotes Dr Martin Pall (who acknowledges that he has a PhD and is not an MD):

"…But I think one approach to dealing with these things is to raise the level of nuclear factor erythroid-2-related factor 2 (Nrf2), which I published [a paper] on."

See "The Harmful Effects of Electromagnetic Fields Explained", 3 September 2017, at Mercola.com, http://tinyurl.com/y8vwznn8.

Dr Pall further states:

"Raising Nrf2 activity may be a general way of lowering the NO/ONOO(-) cycle. In general, then autism should be treated by lowering the NO/ONOO(-) cycle as well as by avoiding both EMF and chemical causal exposures.

"Prevention should focus mainly on avoiding both EMF and chemical causal exposures."

See Dr Pall's Powerpoint presentation, "The Autism Epidemic is Caused by EMFs, Acting via Calcium Channels and Chemicals Acting via NMDA-Rs: Downstream Effects Cause Autism/ASDs", at http://tinyurl.com/ze9kwax.

D. Fisher, Queensland, Australia

Vaccines, Vitamin C and Truth

Dear Editor: These days, people generally think that nobody suffers from scurvy, which used to be identified with long sea voyages during which the sailors were deprived of any fresh fruit and vegetables. The reality is far from such idealised perceptions.

Most people probably have only marginal reserves of vitamin C, and this applies particularly to babies and small children. Moreover, administration of vaccines depletes the marginal vitamin C reserves very quickly and this results in an acute scurvy.

Vaccines of the kind given to babies as early as at birth (i.e., hepatitis B vaccine), and DPT, polio, Hib and pneumococcal vaccines

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given at six to eight weeks and at two and four months, and other vaccines later on, besides adjuvants and preservatives contain diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella toxins that are treated with formaldehyde to lower their virulence and toxicity.

However, all of these treated toxins (toxoids), bacteria and viruses have the ability to revert to their original toxicity and virulence by passage in the injected individuals. This was demonstrated by Samore and Siber ("Effect of pertussis toxin on susceptibility of infant rats to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b", *J. Infect. Dis.* 1992 May 1; 165(5):945-948), and as early as in the 1960s by Gerber *et al.* ("Inactivation of vacuolating virus [SV40] by formaldehyde", *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.* 1961 Oct; 108:205-209) and Fenner ("The reactivation of animal viruses", *BMJ* 1962 Jul 21; 2[5298]:135-142). Two Czech researchers, Pekarek and Rezabek, had already demonstrated that rats injected with pertussis vaccine developed an acute scurvy ("An endocrinological test for innocuity of the pertussis vaccine", *J. Hyg. Epidemiol. Microbiol. Immunol.* 1959; 3[1]:79-84).

My comment is that the difference between rats and human species is that rats produce their own vitamin C and recover, while human babies do not produce their own vitamin C and may not recover unless they are given large doses of vitamin C (sodium ascorbate).

By the way, vitamin C is necessary for the production of collagen, which is essential for the bones and connective tissues.

Many of those who have been

involved in the study of shaken baby syndrome (SBS)—which according to one California judge is a fictitious diagnosis carefully fabricated by the medical profession—have been rather shy or silent about the administered vaccines, even though those vaccine injections as a rule are the only documented facts. Without any revelation of the vaccination status of the affected babies, the whole issue is not going to be resolved: in court cases where parents are accused of injuring their child, it amounts to withholding vital information. Indeed, more recently, some judges in Australia have thrown out the accusations of SBS because of insufficient evidence of the alleged shaking or lack of proof as to whether shaking can actually cause the observed injuries.

One can't convict a person based on an opinion, and medical opinions are subject to errors and changes. In a murder trial, people cannot be convicted on someone's opinion; but in cases of SBS, the accused parents are effectively convicted on someone's opinion.

The picture is crystal clear, at least for people who really study medical literature right from the start with the original articles.

If you set out to study ancient Rome, you should read the authors who lived in ancient Rome and not those who did not and who inevitably based their perceptions of ancient Rome on second- and third-hand information.

In medicine, for some reason, many authors think that they not only *don't have to* but *must not* study older published information. Their patients may suffer as a result.

Moreover, due to the known inevitable political interference, political correctness may delay the truth for centuries. Yes, I am referring to the Holy Inquisition. However, these days we have freedom of speech and the truth is allowed to prevail. Why not see and reveal it?

Viera Scheibner, PhD, retired scientist and author, Blackheath, NSW, Australia

Wi-Fi Ban in Public Parks

As a physician leader in Canada with a great commitment to the health of Canadians, I am very concerned about the increasing evidence internationally that EMR [electromagnetic radiation] is creating increasing health problems in our population as its use increases exponentially. This is particularly true among children… and teachers (and nurses) who are continuously exposed to Wi-Fi routers in schools (and hospitals).

As a cardiac specialist, I am concerned that ~20% of people have detrimental cardiac rhythm sensitivity to EMR. This issue is under active consideration by the Health and Public Policy Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Health Policy and Public Health Committees of the Canadian Medical Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society.

There is an abundance of evidence from around the world that EMR can be harmful to health. Many countries—not Canada or the United States—have initiated policies to mitigate the risks. We, in Canada, need to do the same or more. It is imperative that [the] City of Toronto does not install Wi-Fi in public parks and spaces…

Sincerely,

Hugh Scully, BA, MD, MSc, FRSC(C), FACS, Professor of Surgery and Health Policy, University of Toronto, and Past President of the OMA, CMA and CVS…, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[This letter was submitted on 16 November 2013 to a City of Toronto inquiry (GM26.21) on establishing free public wireless Internet in parks and civic spaces. The committee voted for indefinite deferral. Ed.]

Evidence for the Aether

Hi Duncan: I recently did an audio sound (linear wave) test in a vacuum chamber and discovered the following results.

1. As the air pressure dropped in the test chamber, the long waves dropped in amplitude first. As the vacuum increased, i.e., air pressure dropped, only higher and higher frequencies could be heard.
2. Using an ultrasonic transducer and receiver set under low vacuum levels, I could still detect sound at 40 kHz but not below that frequency.

This directly relates to the late-19th-century Crookes and cathode ray tube tests that J. J. Thomson and others undertook. They did not have the ability back then to do vacuum audio tests by frequency, so they missed this one.

What it means is that you can still propagate a linear wave in a vacuum such as space if the wavelength is short enough—proving that space is not empty and explaining some of the cathode ray tube mysteries.

It also helps prove that there is still a medium in space called the *aether*. Short wavelengths will still propagate in a vacuum, but longer wavelengths will not.

Basically, the higher the vacuum, the higher the frequency needed to propagate in it.

X-rays are probably linear sound waves that move through a vacuum with little loss. This explains why they don't reflect.

This relates directly to space-flight propulsion systems based on linear wave thrusters that are all solid state, and it may be how UFOs operate. A 10-centimetre-wavelength linear wave thruster would work quite well in space and achieve near light-speeds.

Please post this so that other people can research it and verify the results.

Jeff Smith, USA

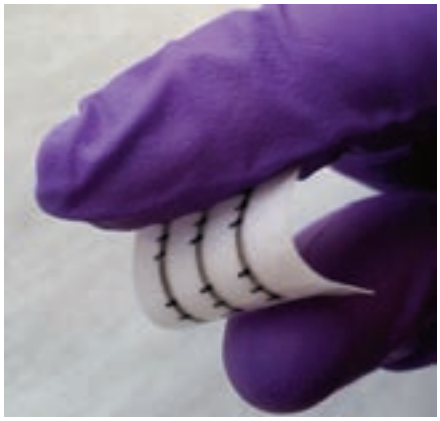
[Readers can send responses via editor@nexusmagazine.com. Ed.]

Global News from NEXUS Newsfeed

INTEGRATED CIRCUITS PRINTED DIRECTLY ONTO FABRIC FOR THE FIRST TIME

Researchers at the University of Cambridge, UK, working with colleagues in Italy and China, have incorporated washable, stretchable and breathable integrated electronic circuits into fabric for the first time—opening up new possibilities for smart textiles and wearable textile electronic devices such as smartphones.

The integrated circuits were made with cheap, safe and environmentally friendly inks, and were printed using conventional inkjet-printing techniques.



A sample integrated circuit printed on fabric. (Photo: Dr Felice Torrisi)

The new method directly prints graphene inks and other two-dimensional materials onto the [polyester] fabric to produce integrated electronic circuits that are comfortable to wear and can survive up to 20 cycles in a typical washing machine.

The technology could lead to new applications of smart fabrics ranging from personal health and wearable computing to military garments, fashion items, and wearable energy harvesting and storage systems.

The process is scalable, and according to the researchers there are no fundamental obstacles to the technological development of wearable electronic devices in terms of both their complexity and their performance.

The printed components are flexible, washable and require low power—essential requirements for applications in wearable electronics. *(Source: Kurzweilai.net, 10 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ydcqnt8o)*

NEW METHOD 3D-PRINTS FULLY FUNCTIONAL ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

Scientists at the University of Nottingham, UK, have developed a method for rapidly 3D-printing fully functional electronic circuits such as antennas, medical devices and solar-energy-collecting structures.

Unlike conventional 3D printers, these circuits can contain both electrically conductive metallic inks and insulating polymeric inks.

The multifunctional additive manufacturing (MFAM) method combines 3D printing—which is based on layer-by-layer deposition of materials to create 3D devices—with 2D-printed electronics. It prints both conductors and insulators in a single step, expanding the range of functions in electronics (but not integrated circuits and other complex devices).

The new method overcomes some of the challenges in manufacturing fully functional devices that contain plastic and metal components in complex structures, where different methods are required to solidify each material. The method speeds up the solidification process of the conductive inks to less than a minute per layer.

Previously, this process took much longer to be completed using conventional heat sources such as ovens and hotplates, which are impractical when hundreds of layers are needed to form an object. *(Source: Kurzweilai.net, 10 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ybqye4ye)*

RUSSIA TO BECOME MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ORGANIC FOOD TO ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Measures taken by Russia to improve agricultural productivity will make the country a leading supplier of organic produce in the Asia-Pacific region, according to President Vladimir Putin.

In an article published on the Kremlin's website ahead of the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Vietnam on 10–11 November, President Putin suggested that a common approach is needed to meet Asia's rapidly growing demand for high-quality and healthy food.

"As a major Eurasian power with vast Far Eastern territories that boast significant potential, Russia has a stake in the successful future of the Asia-Pacific region, and in promoting sustainable and comprehensive growth throughout

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its entire territory.

"Russia is one of the world's leaders in exports of grain, vegetable oils, fish, and a number of other foods. We expect to become the leading supplier of ecologically clean food to our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region," he added.

President Putin advised that measures are being taken to increase agricultural output and improve productivity.

Russia is serious about including small- and medium-sized businesses in APEC economic integration processes, and supporting female entrepreneurship and start-up companies run by young entrepreneurs, he noted. *(Source: RT.com, 9 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/y7mpy8x8)*

CHINA EXPANDS RESEARCH PRESENCE IN ANTARCTICA

As Beijing seeks a greater role in the South Pole, the icebreaker *Xue Long* ("Snow Dragon") set off on 8 November for Antarctica with construction materials to build China's fifth scientific research station on the continent.

The facility, expected to be completed by 2022, is to be located in an area with rich biodiversity, which makes it especially valuable for the scientists.

The Inexpressible Island project will become China's third year-round base and fifth overall at the South Pole and will see Beijing, which joined the Antarctic race only in the mid-1980s, equalling Washington's presence on the continent. The five American stations, including three permanent bases, are currently equipped with dated hardware because the US Antarctic program is facing financial constrictions.

An international treaty classes Antarctica as a scientific preserve, with no country allowed to claim territory there, and extraction of natural resources is banned. *(Source: RT.com, 8 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/y9facf46)*

US AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND TO TAKE OVER MILITARY SPACE OPERATIONS

Plans for a US military "Space Corps" have been scrapped after the proposal was left out of the final version of the $700-billion *National Defense Authorization Act* [NDAA] *for Fiscal Year 2018* [FY18].

Congress was planning to create a new military branch, like the Marine Corps, dedicated to space, but the Air Force had fought against the proposed Space Corps as it would have taken over its military space operations.

Instead, the NDAA gives the Air Force Space Command sole authority to organise, train and equip all space forces.

The NDAA also contains some changes about how the military handles space, including removing a number of bureaucratic positions such as the Defense Space Council and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Space Operations.

The Space Corps idea was met with opposition from Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Joseph Dunford. They thought that while the military needs to do more in space, the creation of a separate branch is premature.

In 1967, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Outer Space Treaty which prohibits signatories from placing nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction in outer space. The accord, however, stopped short of limiting the deployment of conventional weapons.

US Air Force Secretary Heather A. Wilson said that Congress has proposed to increase the funding of space-related military programs even beyond the levels sought by the Air Force.

Section 1605 of the NDAA for FY18 also classifies space as a potential "combat domain":

"…It is the policy of the United States to develop, produce, field, and maintain an integrated system of assets in response to the increasingly contested nature of the space operating domain to…deter or deny an attack on capabilities at every level of orbit in space; and… defend the territory of the United States, its allies, and its deployed forces across all operating domains."

Secretary Wilson added: "The FY18 budget proposal increases what the Air Force is proposing to spend on space by 20 percent."

Defense Secretary Mattis has made modernising America's capabilities in space one of his priorities in his efforts to make the US Air Force "more lethal every day". He earlier called on Congress to pass the NDAA so that the Pentagon can "invest in critical warfighting capabilities, including in space".

Secretary Wilson noted: "The most important thing is to integrate and normalize space, as part of a

The *Xue Long*, photographed on 28 March 2016 on her return voyage from Antarctica to her home port of Shanghai, China. (Photo: Bahnfrend)

joint operation. The US Air Force has about 70 percent of what is in space, and my authorities are to organize, train and equip airspace forces for the conduct of combat operations when they go to the combatant commander."
(Source: RT.com, 10–11 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ydxcu6mk, http://tinyurl.com/ya2pst27; also see Global News, NEXUS *24/05)*

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP A NON-CONTACT HEART-SCAN AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

In the United States, a research team led by the State University of New York at Buffalo has developed a contactless authentication system that can scan the dimensions of a user's heart as a unique identifier to authenticate devices.

The system uses a low-level Doppler radar to continuously scan a user's heart shape and size, and has the ability to authenticate people over distances of up to 98 feet [~30 metres] away.

The device is also considerably safer than Wi-Fi® and other smartphone authentication systems, which emit harmful SAR (specific absorption rate) radiation due to their use of a 5.0-milliwatt reader. In comparison, the device emits less than one per cent of the radiation currently emitted by smartphones.

It takes about eight seconds to authenticate a user for the first time. For subsequent authentications, the device will continuously recognise the user's heart so that he or she will not need to remember or enter multiple passwords.

A device such as a computer will not unlock unless the authenticated user is directly in front of it. Once the user moves away, the device will be locked again.

However, the system is not without its issues. There are some potential privacy and security concerns in regard to a person being easily forced to authenticate the device by going near it, authentication over large distances resulting in the system mistakenly giving third-party individuals access to devices, and the system not recognising the user because of heart disease.
(Source: BiometricUpdate.com, 26 September 2017, http://tinyurl.com/y7fqc4mp)

DEUTSCHE BANK CEO SAYS AI WILL COST TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS

While many in the financial services industry are dreading the day when artificial intelligence (AI) technology becomes advanced enough to render broad swaths of the human workforce obsolete, Deutsche Bank's Chief Executive Officer John Cryan ironically sees the technology as something that might help him save his job.

The leader of the biggest German lender has been tasked with putting the bank back on a sound footing, regaining market share and, of course, reining in costs, including the bank's bloated headcount. Deutsche Bank has 97,000 employees worldwide, about double the number of many of its European peers.

And as the bank has made about 4,000 of the 9,000 cuts promised by Cryan in a five-year restructuring plan announced in late 2015, the CEO told the *Financial Times* that machine learning and automation technology could help him cut tens of thousands of additional jobs, particularly in the bank's back office.

Cryan said that many of the additional cuts would come through using technology to boost efficiency in the bank's processes.

"We're too manual, which can make you error-prone and it makes you inefficient," he observed. "There's a lot of machine learning and mechanisation that we can do."

When asked about the specific number of employees at risk of being replaced, Cryan replied that it would be a "big number".

While the bank's headcount has been reduced elsewhere, in 2017 the Frankfurt-based lender added 24 managing directors and directors to its US corporate finance business.

Cryan's AI views are diametrically opposed to Elon Musk's warnings that AI is the "single biggest threat to humanity" and that governments should immediately move to regulate the technology.

However, some experts say that any meaningful advancements in AI that would render a significant portion of the US labour force obsolete are still far in the future, and that the technology has been incredibly overstated. According to Gartner, Inc.'s Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies, the hype surrounding machine learning is at the "Peak of Inflated Expectations" and heading towards the "Trough of Disillusionment".
(Source: Zerohedge.com, 9 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/y7xezaf7)

XI JINPING BECOMES MOST POWERFUL CHINESE LEADER SINCE CHAIRMAN MAO

China's Communist Party has voted to enshrine President Xi Jinping's ideology in its Constitution, making him the country's most powerful leader since Chairman Mao Zedong.

Whether Mr Xi was able to have his name "crowned" in the party's Constitution had been seen as a key measure of his power, elevating him to the level of previous leaders, as

exemplified by Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory. No other leader since Chairman Mao has had an eponymous ideology included in the document while in office.

Mr Xi has rapidly consolidated his power since assuming the party leadership in late 2012 and then the presidency the following year. The party gave him the title of "core" leader in 2016, a significant strengthening of his position ahead of the National People's Congress, which meets every five years.

The members of China's new Politburo Standing Committee are, in order of seniority, President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng.

The unveiling of the revised line-up marks the climax of the twice-a-decade leadership reshuffle. *(Source: ABC.net.au, 24 October 2017, http://tinyurl.com/yd7dr2nq; SCMP.com, 25 October 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ybnptybb)*

AN END TO ENCRYPTION? CHINA TAKES THE LEAD IN QUANTUM MESSAGING

Scientists in China are claiming to have made a major breakthrough in quantum communications by successfully transmitting data via a quantum channel over a distance of 2.7 kilometres—a new record.

Quantum-encrypted data cannot be eavesdropped because a third party tampering with the communication channel causes a quantum message to change, and both the recipient and the sender will know that someone is attempting an intercept.

Much like the 20th-century space race, the USA and China are rapidly developing quantum messaging technology, and China appears to be in the lead—for now.

In June 2017, Chinese scientists demonstrated their first secure quantum communication by means of a small-scale tabletop experiment. This time, they have pushed the boundaries by successfully sending and receiving quantum-based messages over much longer distances. The researchers claim that their system can be scaled to send messages "tens of kilometres".

If quantum communication becomes the new norm, it will alleviate the need for any form of encryption. While today's best encryption is nearly unbreakable, it is not 100-per-cent secure. Thus, developing quantum systems is a matter of national security. *(Source: SputnikNews.com, 11 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/yaomcz6b)*

"BIG VOID" IDENTIFIED IN GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

The mysteries of the pyramids have deepened with the discovery of what appears to be a giant void within the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. It is not known why the cavity exists or indeed if it holds anything of value because it is not obviously accessible.

Japanese and French scientists made the announcement after two years of study at the famous Giza pyramids complex. They have been using muography, an imaging technique which can sense density changes inside large rock structures.

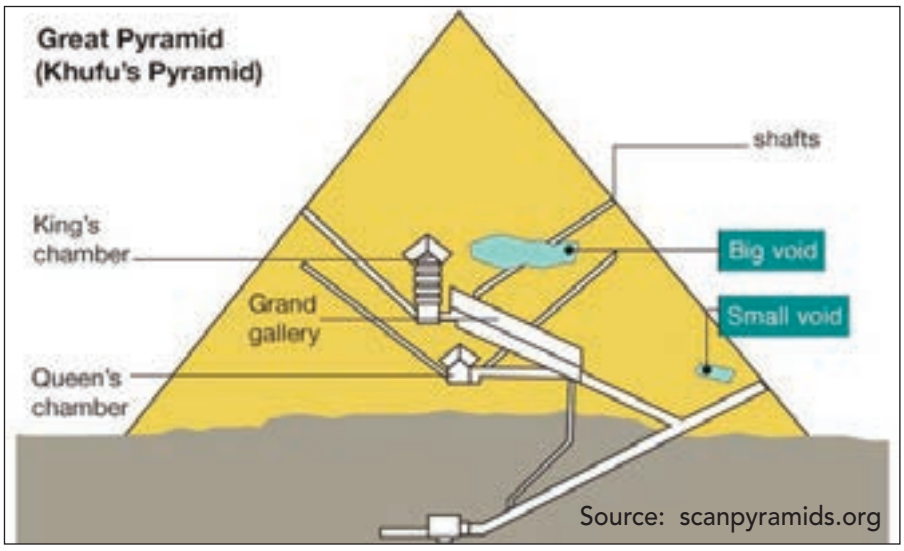
The Great Pyramid, also known as the Pyramid of Khufu or Cheops, contains three large interior chambers and a series of passages, the most striking of which is the 47-metre-long, eight-metre-high Grand Gallery. The newly identified feature is said to sit directly above this and to be at least 30 metres long and several metres high.

"We don't know whether this big void is horizontal or inclined; we don't know if this void is made by one structure or several successive structures," explained Mehdi Tayoubi from the HIP Institute, Paris.

"What we are sure about is that this big void is there; that it is impressive; and that it was not expected as far as I know by any sort of theory," Tayoubi added.

The ScanPyramids team is being very careful not to describe the cavity as a "chamber".

The question now arises as to how the "big void" should be investigated further. Jean-Baptiste Mouret, a robotics/AI expert from the Inria research centre in Nancy, France, said that the team has an idea about how to do it but the Egyptian authorities would first have to approve it. "Our concept is to drill a very small hole to potentially explore monuments like this. We aim to have a robot that could fit in a three-centimetre hole. Basically, we're working on flying robots," Mouret said.
(Source: BBC.com, 2 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/y7y96gze; also see Global News, 24/01)



FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SAUDI PURGE

by James Corbett

Jeddah Islamic Port, Saudi Arabia, May 2017 — A private yacht sails into the port of Jeddah under heavy guard. The yacht's identity is hidden even from the port authorities. Only a handful of people are allowed near it. They deliver several boxes on board and the yacht sails away. The boxes contain cash, US$1 billion cash—a "gift" from the inner circle of Saudi "Clown" Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS).

And the mysterious yacht? It belongs to The Trump Organization.

The whole mysterious incident took place while US President Donald Trump was busy bowing to MBS's father, King Salman.

An incredible story, to be sure. Phenomenal, even. Trump bribed by the Saudi [Deputy] Crown Prince to the tune of $1 billion? The beloved POTUS selling out his country in return for some cold hard cash? It could be the scandal of the century, and it seems to explain so much. After all, Trump's genuflections (literal and figurative) towards the Saudi royals and his profusions of "great confidence" in those same royals, even as they commit a chaotic and bloody purge, stand in stark contrast to the rhetoric of candidate Trump.

Lest we forget, it was just over one year ago that Trump was railing against Hillary Clinton for accepting money from those gay-killing, women-enslaving, Saudi fiends and openly ruminating about Saudi connections to 9/11.

But is it true? Was there really a private yacht in the Jeddah port? A team of shadowy men from MBS's inner circle? The billion dollars in cash? Who knows!

The story comes from @mujtahidd, an anonymous Twitter user who has two million followers and claims to have sources close to the royal palace. And, true or not, it's being reported on by "reputable" outlets. And why not? It's salacious. It's tantalising. And it makes just enough sense to be not entirely implausible.

In a sense, the yacht story is a good window into the chaotic "anti-corruption" purge taking place in Saudi Arabia right now [November 2017], which has so far netted 201 people (and, not incidentally, 1,700 bank accounts and other assets totalling a cool $800 billion). There's so much uncertainty from so many quarters that even the most outlandish stories are being taken seriously.

Prince Mohammad bin Salman, then Deputy Crown Prince, photographed with Jared Kushner, Ivanka Trump, Wilbur Ross and Rex Tillerson in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 20 May 2017. (White House photo: Shealah Craighead)

Did a Saudi prince die in a shootout while being swept up in the Kingdom's recent purge, as many outlets reported—or is it all a hoax, as Saudi officials claim? Was the dramatic downing of a helicopter during the purge a deliberate act? Heck, was the Vegas shooting actually an attempt to assassinate MBS? Who knows!

But don't worry: all is not lost in these chaotic times. There are some things that we *do* know about what's going on and, as it turns out, these things are pretty important. So let's examine five things we know (or need to know) about the Saudi purge.

1 – Jared Kushner's unannounced trip to Riyadh in October 2017

So guess who was in Riyadh, paying an unannounced visit to his good friend MBS, just days before the purge madness took place? Go on, guess.

If you guessed arch-Zionist Jared Kushner, a.k.a. meddler-in-chief of Middle East affairs, a.k.a. Mr Ivanka Trump, then give yourself a cookie!

As Politico.com reported on 29 October, Kushner just took a commercial flight to the Kingdom (along with Deputy National Security Advisor Dina Powell and Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt) and returned before anyone was the wiser. But don't worry: the dutiful lapdog mainstream media intimated that the sudden, unannounced and completely secret trip was about… peace! Apparently Jared is just so concerned about solving the Israeli–Palestinian conflict that he's apt to jump on a flight at a moment's notice and fly to…Saudi Arabia? And then fly directly back?

If that seems even more unbelievable than the Jeddah yacht story, you're right. Remember, this is the same Kushner who was personally responsible for putting

together the infamous $110 billion Saudi arms deal earlier in 2017. And, as I reported in June, this is the same Kushner who was revealed to be "in almost constant phone and email contact" with Yusef Al Otaiba, the shady United Arab Emirates ambassador [to the USA] who was caught helping a neocon think-tank run a smear campaign against Qatar.

And also keep in mind that the remarkable Saudi-led campaign to isolate Qatar earlier in 2017 was also directly preceded by a Trump visit and enthusiastically supported by a Trump tweet. (And you thought the orb was just a joke!)

So it's impossible to imagine that Kushner's visit was unconnected with the incredible purge that took place just days later. The only real question is: who was giving the briefing and who was being briefed? (Fun speculation: Trump's support for the purge was the price for the billion-dollar bribe.)

Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohammad bin Salman meets US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House on 14 March 2017. (Official White House photo: Shealah Craighead)

2 – Saudi Arabia is facing an existential crisis

Take a look at these headlines from the last two years and a startling picture emerges of the vicarious state of the Saudi "oil kingdom" in the wake of the great oil price drop:

- Weak oil prices squeezing Saudi Arabia's coffers…
- Saudi plans spending cuts, reforms to shrink budget deficit
- Saudi Arabia seeks $6B–$8B bank loan to shore up state coffers
- Oil Price Swings Spark Cigarette Taxes In Saudi Arabia
- Saudi Arabia to increase domestic petrol prices by 80 percent

Cigarette taxes, rising gas prices and state debt may seem like mundane stuff to most of the world, but it's hard to overestimate how important these types of stories are for the House of Saud.

They say that revolutions never happen during periods of prosperity, and Saudi Arabia has proven to be no exception to that rule. Steady funds from the country's plentiful supply of black gold have allowed the ruling royals to essentially buy the support of their population with subsidised gas prices, lavish welfare and 0% income tax.

But as the oil price shock of 2014 set in and the country started taking out loans, slashing subsidies and welfare programs and unveiling austerity budgets, many began pondering openly whether the House of Saud will be able to keep the lid on the tribal dissent that has long threatened to divide the nation.

The events of this past week [early November] are among the ways that this existential crisis is playing out in the faltering oil kingdom—and if oil revenues continue to dry up, this might be just a taste of the chaos we can expect there in the coming months and years.

So how on Earth will Saudi Arabia deal with these tough times?

3 – Saudi Arabia is being rebranded

Enter MBS, a.k.a. Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. He's a grandson of King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, founder of the modern Saudi state. King Salman's surprise decision earlier this year [June 2017] to put him next in line to the throne foreshadowed the turmoil we've seen unfolding since 4 November.

To his boosters, MBS is "Mr Everything", a "reformer" whose "ambitious plans" to modernise the state will be the only way to save the country from utter ruin in the "post-carbon" era. "His" (read: his string-pullers') much-ballyhooed Vision 2030 plan for the country to make the transition away from oil and become a dynamic 21st-century technocratic marvel of the modern age includes a number of suitably outlandish ideas:

- Selling off bits of the national oil and gas company (the largest company in the world, no less)? Sure, why not!
- A $500-billion megacity in the desert? Let's go for it!
- Granting citizenship to a robot? Just watch us!
- Hey, maybe we'll even let women drive! Talk about visionary!

The epitome of this gee-whiz hype about MBS and the bold new direction he's taking the country in was the *Guardian*'s ridiculous editorialisation [on 6 November] of the unfolding purge: "Saudi arrests show crown prince is a risk-taker with a zeal for reform".

Cooler heads, however, have noted that MBS's remarkable rise to King-in-waiting is in fact an ominous sign. This is the same MBS, after

all, who presided over the brutal Saudi war crimes in Yemen. The same MBS who masterminded the failed boycott of Qatar. The same MBS who watched as Iran's influence throughout the region continued to grow despite the Saudis' best efforts.

This is the "visionary reformer" who's going to lead the Saudis to the promised land of megacities and citizen robots. And he's going to do so by rounding up 11 of his own cousins and seizing their bank accounts? This sounds less like a vision for the future and more like…

4 – *Game of Thrones*, Saudi style

I know you've heard it before but this is *Game of Thrones*, Saudi edition. Well, okay, to be perfectly honest, I've never seen (or read) *Game of Thrones*. But this is what I imagine it looks like.

One of the people who paints the picture most vividly is Pepe Escobar, of the Asia Times, who frames these latest machinations as a pre-emptive counter-counter-coup by MBS against the forces who would prefer him *not* to be next in line to the throne. Forces that happen to include the CIA [the US Central Intelligence Agency].

The story goes that in 2014 the Americans were getting ready to use the "Get Into Saudi Arabia Free" card by "exposing" Saudi terror. They were even prepared to oust the royal families of both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but were dissuaded from doing so on the promise that US-friendly Muhammad bin Nayef would take over Saudi Arabia.

Accordingly, King Salman took the unprecedented step of appointing bin Nayef Crown Prince in [April] 2015—a major departure from the line of succession that had held sway until then.

But when the CIA blocked a UAE–Saudi attempt to overthrow the Emir of Qatar earlier in 2017, King Salman responded by sweeping bin Nayef aside in favour of MBS. This, as even the *New York Times* [18 July] was forced to admit, was no mere change in the line of succession: it was a coup.

It wasn't long before rumours started swirling that a counter-coup against MBS was in the works. And so now a counter-counter-coup has taken all of the would-be coup participants out of action in a most spectacular fashion. Or has it?

As Pepe Escobar reported [Asia Times, 6 November] via a source close to the royal palace:

"This is more serious than it appears. The arrest of the two sons of previous King Abdullah, Princes Miteb and Turki, was a fatal mistake. This now endangers the King himself. It was only the regard for the King that protected MBS. There are many left in the army against MBS and they are enraged at the arrest of their commanders."

This is why the CIA and other outside forces are extremely interested in what is happening in Saudi Arabia right now, and why, by extension, the rest of the world should be as well.

Now, for those in the western world who are following these events from afar, it may be easy to see the dizzying array of foreign names and unfamiliar intrigues and simply shrug. It's a mess, surely, but it's not *our* mess. Right? Wrong.

As I've pointed out over and over and over in the past few years…

5 – The global monetary system hangs in the balance

Ultimately, this is not just about Saudi Arabia. It is not just about the Middle East. It is about the future course of global geopolitics.

Sounds grandiose? Well, as I've described at length before, and as I'm sure regular readers know by now, the petrodollar has been the backbone of the world monetary system since the official end of the Bretton Woods system under US President Richard Nixon.

This system ensures that Saudi oil (and, by implication, OPEC oil, and, by further implication, all oil), is denominated in US dollars. The American–Saudi relationship has been integral to this arrangement, with the House of Saud recycling these petrodollars back through the US banking system in the form of Treasury purchases, investments and arms deals.

But, as I've also reported in the past, this American–Saudi relationship has shown strains in recent years. Saudi anger over Obama-era rapprochement with Iran and unwillingness to go full-Gaddafi on Syria's Assad has been met with US threats about exposing "Saudi" terror, including in relation to the 9/11 lawsuits and the [2002 report's classified] "28 pages".

The recent American shale oil boom has meant that Saudi Arabia has been selling less oil to the US, and China is only too happy to step in and take America's place as Saudi Arabia's most-favoured trading nation. And now China is setting up a yuan-denominated oil exchange that could potentially mean that the Saudis and others may be trading oil for yuan in the future.

This is why the CIA and other outside forces are extremely interested in what is happening in Saudi Arabia right now, and why, by extension, the rest of the world should be as well. After all, by now we know all too well what happens to countries that try to back away from the petrodollar, don't we?

Only this time, it's not some "minor" players on the grand chessboard who can be taken out of the game with a simple NATO love-bomb campaign. This time we're looking at the potential of Russia and China backing this shift away from the petrodollar en masse. And we all know what that spells.

Now it's important to remember

that these events in the Gulf are still unfolding, much is still unknown, and there are many pieces of the puzzle that don't fit into a short exploration like this. That's why this editorial should by no means be taken as the definitive account of what's happening in Saudi Arabia right now, only as a starting point for such an exploration. I've been covering this topic in greater depth with experts in the region this past week, so please check my interview archives if you want to hear about these events in greater detail. Stay tuned for more such conversations in the near future.

But whatever else may be said, I know this much for certain: this purge will not be the end of this particularly turbulent chapter in the history of the House of Saud. In fact, it may just be the beginning. *(Source: James Corbett, TheLastAmericanVagabond.com, 12 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ycolv339)*

Five Saudi princes are among 11 royals and hundreds of officials and businessmen arrested in Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's anti-corruption purge in early November 2017. (Image: www.argaam.com)

SAUDIS AND ISRAELIS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVOKE WAR ON LEBANON

Only a day after major ISIS [Islamic State] defeats in Syria and Iraq indicated that fighting may be winding down, an extraordinary series of events raised the danger of a new war, this time against Lebanon. The events are as follows.

On 3 November, the last ISIS strongholds in Iraq and Syria fell. Both Saudi Arabia and Israel seek to dismember Syria and have assisted ISIS.

On 4 November, in a measure never seen before in the global arena, Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, under orders from the Saudi regime, announced his resignation on Saudi TV, broadcast from Saudi Arabia. He assailed Iran for interfering in Lebanon and claimed that Hezbollah is trying to assassinate him.

Hours later, Riyadh said it had intercepted a Yemeni-fired missile over its capital. For years the Saudi regime, armed by the United States, has been bombarding the people of Yemen and indiscriminately killing civilians. While the Yemenis say that the missile they fired was made in Yemen, the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adel bin Ahmed, claimed that it was "an Iranian missile, launched by Hezbollah" and constituted an "act of war by Iran".

On 7 November, the Saudis furthered the escalation and accused Lebanon of "declaring war" against Saudi Arabia.

At the same time, in a bid to consolidate power, the Saudi regime arrested hundreds, including some of the country's most high-profile princes and businessmen, inside the Kingdom on charges of corruption.

The corporate media have long given the impression that Israel and Saudi Arabia are on opposite sides. That is for public consumption.

Now there is a smoking gun showing that Israel and Saudi Arabia are working together to bring war to Lebanon.

On 7 November, Israel's Channel 10 News published a leaked diplomatic cable sent to all Israeli ambassadors throughout the world concerning the above events.

The classified embassy cable, written in Hebrew, shows that Tel Aviv and Riyadh are deliberately coordinating to escalate the situation in the Middle East.

These documents provide the first proof of direct collaboration between these two US clients.

The cable was leaked by Barak Ravid, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for Channel 10 News. The communiqué, he said, was sent from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem on 6 November to all Israeli embassies. It instructs Israeli diplomats to do everything possible to rev up diplomatic pressure against Hezbollah and Iran.

According to ZeroHedge.com, the communication urges support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen and encourages Israeli diplomats to appeal to the "highest officials" in their host countries to expel Hezbollah from Lebanese government and politics. *(Source: GlobalResearch.ca, 12 November 2017, http://tinyurl.com/ybfu8s56)*

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	Charge input voltage	NA
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Performance	Maximum speed	25 km/h
	Distance range	65 km

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	Charge input voltage	NA
Motor	Max Power	250W
Performance	Maximum speed	25 km/h
	Distance range	70 km

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Model		Traveller 8 speed
Battery	Battery type	Removable Li-ion Battery
	Battery capacity	36V 9AH
	Battery weight	Light
	Charging time	4-6 hours
	Charge input voltage	NA
Motor	Max Power	250W
Performance	Maximum speed	25 km/h
	Distance range	70 km

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PROJECT CENSORED: The Top 25 News Stories of 2016–17

A journalism program founded in 1976 at California's Sonoma State University is progressed by academics and students in their annual review of the most important news disregarded by America's corporate media.

by Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation
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1. Widespread Lead Contamination Threatens Children's Health and Could Triple Household Water Bills in the United States

In December 2016, M. B. Pell and Joshua Schneyer reported for Reuters that nearly 3,000 neighbourhoods across the United States had levels of lead poisoning more than double the rates found in Flint, Michigan, at the peak of its contamination crisis. Blood tests showed that more than 1,100 of those communities had rates of lead contamination "at least four times higher" than had been found in Flint.

The World Health Organization in a 2010 report linked lead exposure to children's physical ailments—including anaemia, kidney dysfunction and high blood pressure—and developmental issues—such as impaired peripheral nerve function and decreases in growth, hearing and IQ.

"By school age," Schneyer and Pell wrote in a June 2016 article, "children with a history of lead exposure can exhibit poor attention and impulse control, with lower intelligence and academic performance—a stigma that can follow them through life." The authors quoted Morri E. Markowitz, MD, the Director of the Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment Program at The Children's Hospital at Montefiore, New York City: "The lower your IQ, the more trouble learning, the more likely you are to drop out of school, to be delinquent, to be incarcerated."

Reporting for DeSmogBlog in January 2017, Farron Cousins wrote that "lead pipes are time bombs" and water contamination is to be expected. The US relies on an estimated 1.2 million miles of lead pipes for municipal delivery of drinking water, and much of this ageing infrastructure is reaching the end of its lifespan or has exceeded it. He described Flint as "just a tiny piece in a much larger story" about a US water crisis characterised by both contamination and lack of affordability.

US President Barack Obama (centre) drinks filtered water from Flint, Michigan, after a meeting to discuss the public health water crisis, held on 4 May 2016 at the Flint Northwestern High School. (Official White House photo: Pete Souza)

Declaring this the "Era of Infrastructure Replacement", the American Water Works Association estimated in 2012 that a complete overhaul of the nation's ageing water systems would require an investment of US$1 trillion nationwide over the next 25 years, which could triple the cost of household water bills.

Cousins concluded: "…While the water contamination crisis will occasionally steal a headline or two, virtually no attention has been paid to the fact that we're pricing a third of United States citizens out of the water market."

2. Over Six Trillion Dollars in Unaccountable US Army Spending

According to a July 2016 report by the US Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Inspector General, over the past two decades the US Army has accumulated $6.5 trillion in expenditures that cannot be accounted for, because two government offices—the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army and the DoD's Defense Finance and Accounting Service—"did not prioritize correcting the system deficiencies that caused errors… and did not provide sufficient guidance for supporting system-generated adjustments".

In the report's bureaucratic language, the expenditures themselves are referred to as "unsupported adjustments" and the lack of complete and accurate records of them is described as "material weakness". In other words, as Dave Lindorff explained in This Can't Be Happening! in August 2016, the DoD "has not been tracking or recording or auditing all of the taxpayer money allocated by Congress—what it was spent on, how well it was spent, or where the money actually ended up".

In 1996, US Congress enacted legislation requiring all government agencies—including not only the DoD but also the federal government's departments of Education, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development, for instance—to undergo annual audits.

Mandy Smithberger, Director of the Straus Military Reform Project at the Project on Government Oversight, told Lindorff: "Accounting at the Department of Defense is a disaster, but nobody is screaming about it because you have a lot of people in Congress who believe in more military spending, so they don't really challenge military spending."

Thomas Hedges reported for the *Guardian* in March 2017 that "the Pentagon has exempted itself without consequence for 20 years now, telling the Government Accountability Office…that collecting and organizing the required information for a full audit is too costly and time-consuming". Hedges also quoted Rafael DeGennaro, Director of the Audit the Pentagon coalition: "Over the last 20 years, the Pentagon has broken every promise to Congress about when an audit would be completed. Meanwhile, Congress has more than doubled the Pentagon's budget."

The corporate media have not covered news about the $6.5 trillion in unaccountable US Army expenditures.

3. Pentagon Paid British PR Firm for Fake al-Qaeda Videos

The Pentagon paid a British public relations company more than $660 million to run a top-secret propaganda program in Iraq from at least 2006 to December 2011, revealed Crofton Black and Abigail Fielding-Smith in an October 2016 Bureau of Investigative Journalism exposé. The UK-based PR firm Bell Pottinger produced short TV segments made to appear like Arabic news stories and insurgent videos, according to a former employee.

Bell Pottinger's former Chairman, Lord (Timothy) Bell, confirmed that his firm had worked on a "covert" military operation "covered by various secrecy agreements" and that he had reported to the Pentagon, the CIA and the National Security Council on his company's work in Iraq.

A former employee, Martin Wells, who worked as a video editor in Iraq, said that the firm's output had been

approved by General David Petraeus, then Commander of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, and on occasion by the White House.

In a year when pundits and politicians of all stripes as well as members of the public and the establishment press crowed over "fake news", the US corporate media completely ignored the story of how one of the most powerful US government institutions, the Department of Defense, secretly used taxpayer money to create fake news of its own.

4. Voter Rights Suppression in the 2016 Presidential Election

The *Voting Rights Act of 1965* addressed discrimination in voting by requiring all state and local governments with a history of racial discrimination to have preclearance from the federal government before making any changes to their voting laws or procedures.

In 2013, the US Supreme Court ruled 5–4 in *Shelby County v. Holder* that a key provision of the Voting Rights Act—the section that determined which state and local governments must comply with the Act's preapproval requirement—was unconstitutional and could no longer be used. As Ari Berman and others reported, this made 2016 the first US presidential election in 50 years without the full protections guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act. Specifically, as a result of the *Shelby* decision, changes to voting laws in nine states and parts of six others with long histories of racial discrimination in voting were no longer subject to federal government approval.

Since *Shelby*, 14 states, including many southern states as well as key swing states, implemented new voting restrictions, in many cases just in time for the election. Texas implemented a photo-ID law that resulted in one of the lowest voter turnouts in the United States. In North Carolina, a voter-ID requirement permitted just a few acceptable forms of identification; according to data from the State Board of Elections, over 300,000 registered voters lacked even one accepted form of ID. Arizona made changes to its voting laws that the Department of Justice had previously rejected because of minority voter discrimination. Florida converted to elections in English only in many counties, and also changed poll locations at the last minute.

5. Big Data and Dark Money behind the 2016 Presidential Election

American right-wing computer scientist and hedge-fund billionaire Robert Mercer was the top donor to Donald Trump's presidential campaign, contributing $13.5 million and helping lay the groundwork for what is now called the Trump Revolution. In addition, Mercer funded Cambridge Analytica, a data analytics company that specialises in "election management strategies" and uses microtargeting. Mercer's money also enabled Steve Bannon to fund Breitbart.

Since 2010, Mercer has donated $95 million to right-wing political campaigns and nonprofit groups. He has given funds to The Heartland Institute, a climate change "denial" think-tank, and the Media Research Center, which refers to itself as "America's Media Watchdog" and aims to correct "liberal bias".

Cambridge Analytica is affiliated with the British-based company SCL (Strategic Communication Laboratories) Group. Alexander Nix, the Chief Executive Officer of Cambridge Analytica, said in a company press release on the day after Trump's victory: "We are thrilled that our revolutionary approach to data-driven communications played such an integral part in President-elect Donald Trump's extraordinary win." Cambridge Analytica began working for the Trump campaign in June 2016, after initially providing analysis for candidate Ted Cruz.

Hillary Clinton vs Donald Trump (Image: DonkeyHotey)

According to Alexander Nix, Cambridge Analytica combines behavioural science based on measurement of psychological traits, Big Data analysis premised on the fact that everything we do leaves digital traces, and advertisement-targeting aligned to "the personality of an individual". This approach informed direct messaging not only to potential Trump voters but also to Trump's canvassers. From July 2016, Cambridge Analytica used an app, known as Groundgame, to identify the political views and personality types of the inhabitants of a house.

As Hannes Grassegger and Mikael Krogerus reported for Motherboard (VICE) in January 2017: "…Trump's people only rang at the doors of houses that the app rated as receptive to his messages. The canvassers came prepared with guidelines for conversations tailored to the personality type of the resident. In turn, the canvassers fed the reactions into the app, and the new data flowed back to the dashboards of the Trump campaign." (Advocates in the Brexit campaign used the same app.)

While Hillary Clinton and the Democrats relied on traditional demographic data to inform their campaign, Cambridge Analytica and the Trump campaign divided the US population into 32 personality types and focused on 17 specific states.

6. Antibiotic-Resistant "Superbugs" Threaten Health and Foundations of Modern Medicine

Pharmaceutical companies that produce antibiotics are creating dangerous superbugs when their factories leak industrial waste, reported Madlen Davies in September 2016 for The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

Superbugs are bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics. Pharmaceutical factories in China and India, where most of the world's antibiotics are manufactured, are releasing "untreated waste fluid" into local soils and waters, leading to increased antimicrobial resistance that diminishes the effectiveness of antibiotics and threatens the foundations of modern medicine. A number of the companies have established links to US markets.

After bacteria in the environment become resistant to antibiotics, they can exchange genetic material with other germs, spreading antibiotic resistance around the world, according to an assessment by the European Public Health Alliance that served as the basis for Davies's news report. In her overview, Davies described a case in which a drug-resistant bacterium that originated in India in 2014 has since been found in more than 70 other countries.

7. The Toll of US Navy Training on Marine Wildlife in the North Pacific

United States Navy training activities are deadly for marine mammals in the North Pacific Ocean. Over a five-year period, the navy killed, injured or harassed whales, dolphins, porpoises, sea lions and other marine wildlife nearly 12 million times—legally, according to a May 2016 exposé by Dahr Jamail for Truthout.

The West Coast Action Alliance (WCAA), a coalition that aims to protect the nation's national and state parks, airspace and waters, combined data from the US Navy's Northwest Training and Testing environmental impact statement and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Letters of Authorization for the number of "takes" of marine mammals caused by navy exercises. A "take" is harm done to an animal, with impacts ranging from harassment, resulting in behavioural changes, to death. The WCAA found that, over a five-year period, the US Navy had been responsible for more than 11.8 million takes of marine mammal species in four North Pacific areas of operation—a figure that Karen Sullivan, a WCAA spokesperson and former endangered-species biologist with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, described as "staggering".

According to Emily Stolarcyk, Program Manager of the Eyak Preservation Council in Cordova, Alaska: "…With the limited observation practiced, the Navy's activities have proved lethal to large marine species. What about the unknown impacts?"

As the WCAA commented, these 11.8 million takes do not include the impacts on "endangered and threatened seabirds, fish, sea turtles or terrestrial species" due to navy activities. With little oversight on US Navy training

activities, the public is left in the dark regarding their environmental consequences, including especially how navy operations have an effect on fish in the North Pacific and marine life at the bottom of the food chain.

There has been almost no coverage of these impacts in the US corporate press. However, in July 2016, the *Washington Post* reported on a federal appeals court ruling in San Francisco which found that the navy's use of loud, low-frequency sonar had violated marine mammal protection laws.

8. Maternal Mortality a Growing Threat in the United States

Each year in the United States, over 65,000 pregnant women suffer life-threatening complications, including physical and psychological conditions aggravated by pregnancy, and over 600 die from pregnancy-related causes. Elizabeth Dawes Gay reported for Women's eNews in April 2016 that inadequate health care in rural areas and racial disparities are drivers of this maternal health crisis. Nationally, African American women are three to four times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes, with rates even higher in parts of the US that Gay characterised as "pockets of neglect", such as Georgia where the 2011 maternal mortality rate of 28.7 per 100,000 live births was nearly double the national average.

Women's Policy, Inc., a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy organisation [now the Women's Congressional Policy Institute], hosted a briefing in April 2016 for US maternal mortality experts to address problems and present solutions to a panel of congressional staffers, federal employees and women's health advocates. "The US is the only nation in the developed world with a rising maternal mortality rate," Representative Lois Capps stated at the meeting. Keisha Callins, MD, identified issues that contribute to the rising maternal mortality rate, including "provider shortages; lack of physical access to care; …low educational attainment, poverty, poor access to healthy foods, neighborhood violence and stress".

Another factor in maternal health care is the prevalence of Caesarean section (C-section) deliveries. The World Health Organization recommends that no more than 10

to 15 per cent of births should be C-section deliveries. In the US, one in three babies is delivered by C-section.

9. Democratic National Committee Claims Right to Select Presidential Candidate

In June 2016, Beck & Lee, a legal firm based in Miami, Florida, filed a class-action suit on behalf of supporters of US Senator Bernie Sanders against the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and its former Chair, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, alleging that the DNC broke legally binding neutrality agreements in the 2016 Democratic Party presidential primaries by strategising to make Hillary Clinton the nominee before a single vote was cast.

Transcripts from the lawsuit's hearing, which took place in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, federal court in April 2017, document the DNC's lack of commitment to key articles of its own charter.

10. Record Year for Global Internet Shutdowns

Governments around the world shut down Internet access more than 50 times in 2016, reported Lyndal Rowlands for the Inter Press Service (IPS) in December of that year. These shutdowns limited freedom of speech, swayed elections and damaged economies. "In the worst cases," Rowlands wrote, "internet shutdowns have been associated with human rights violations"—as was the case in Ethiopia and Uganda. Rowlands quoted Deji Olukotun, Senior Global Advocacy Manager at the digital rights group Access Now: "What we have found is that internet shutdowns go hand in hand with atrocities."

Many governments intentionally blacked out Internet access during elections and to quell protests. However, not only do these Internet shutdowns restrict freedom of speech, they also hurt economies around the world. IPS, TechCrunch and other independent news organisations referred to a Brookings Institution study which found that Internet shutdowns cost countries $2.4 billion between July 2015 and June 2016, with the biggest losses in India (an estimated $968 million), Saudi Arabia ($465 million) and Morocco ($320 million).

Darrell West, the author of the Brookings Institution study, cautioned that the figures are only estimates and the actual economic costs are likely to be even higher. West wrote that "the $2.4 billion figure is a conservative estimate that likely *understates* the actual economic damage" because it does not include "lost tax revenues associated with blocked digital access, impact on worker productivity, barriers to business expansion connected with these shutdowns, or the loss of investor, consumer, and business confidence resulting from such disruptions".

Overall, West noted in the Brookings study: "…As long as political authorities continue to disrupt internet activity, it will be difficult for impacted nations to reap the full benefits of the digital economy."

In a nonbinding resolution adopted on 30 June 2016 by more than 70 countries, the United Nations Human Rights Council lauded the Internet's "great potential to accelerate human progress" and condemned "measures aiming to or that intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online". According to the resolution, "the exercise of human rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression, on the Internet is an issue of increasing interest and importance".

11. Law Enforcement Surveillance of Telephone Records and Seizure of Protesters' Cellphones

In cooperation with the telco AT&T, US federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have been secretly collecting telephone records since 1987 under a program known as Hemisphere, according to a November 2016 report for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) by Aaron Mackey and Dave Maass.

The Hemisphere Project's database contains "trillions of domestic and international phone call records", and AT&T "adds roughly four billion phone records" each day, including "calls from non-AT&T customers that pass through the company's switches". These call records for individuals include phone numbers dialled, calls received and each call's time, date and length.

Furthermore, the collected data allows the Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal agencies as well as state and local police to undertake "complicated traffic analysis that can dynamically map people's social networks and physical locations".

Information that the EFF gleaned from its Freedom of Information Act requests as well as from lawsuits it filed against federal and California law enforcement agencies suggests that officials collect and analyse this sensitive data "without a warrant or any judicial oversight".

In secret documents obtained by the EFF, police tout Hemisphere as a "Super Search Engine" and "Google on Steroids". These descriptions, Mackey and Maass wrote, indicate that "Hemisphere is a mass surveillance program that threatens core civil liberties".

The Hemisphere Project was unknown until 2013 when a presentation about it was "inadvertently released to a privacy activist", the EFF revealed. The government and law enforcement agencies have made it their mission to keep this program hidden from the public eye. Police using data collected through Hemisphere were instructed to ensure that the program never appeared in the public record. After police obtained private information about someone by using Hemisphere, they would engage in a controversial practice called "parallel construction" to obtain the targeted data through traditional subpoenas.

The logo of the Hemisphere Project
(Image: Office of National Drug Control Policy)

On 20 January 2017, the day that Donald Trump was sworn in as President, protests took place a short distance away from the Capitol. Metropolitan Police Department officers in Washington, DC, arrested more than 230 individuals, charging them under felony riot laws and seizing some of their cellphones. AlterNet journalist Sarah Lazare and CityLab correspondent George Joseph reported that law enforcement officials were compelling Facebook, Apple and Google to turn over personal data for at least some of the people arrested.

This story is critically important for several reasons. Mark Goldstone, an attorney affiliated with the National Lawyers Guild, has defended protesters in Washington, DC, for more than 30 years. He emphasised to AlterNet that he had never heard of a case in which mobile phones were seized at protests and was unaware of any previous cases in which protesters faced felony riot charges. A felony riot charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to $25,000.

Citizens' rights are further threatened as local, state and federal law enforcement are increasingly equipped with both cellphone interception and cellphone extraction devices. George Joseph wrote in February 2017 that the 50 largest police departments in the US have invested heavily in military-grade surveillance tools. One device, called a Dirtbox in honour of Digital Receiver Technology, the company that produces the device, can track 10,000 cellphones at once.

In May 2017, the *Guardian* reported that, since Donald Trump was elected President, more than 20 states have proposed bills that would "crack down" on protests and demonstrations in ways that United Nations experts have described as "criminalizing peaceful protests".

12. United States Quietly Establishes New "Anti-Propaganda" Centre

On 23 December 2016, then President Barack Obama signed the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017*. As Sarah Lazare reported for AlterNet, the NDAA includes a provision to create a new federal centre with "sweeping" surveillance powers to counter foreign "propaganda and disinformation". Lazare wrote that the Global Engagement Center will be granted "broad and ill-defined powers to surveil the 'populations most susceptible to propaganda', compile reporting and social media messaging critical of the US government and disseminate pro-American propaganda". The NDAA has set aside $160 million to be used in fighting propaganda and disinformation deemed unfavourable to US interests.

The NDAA states: "The purpose of the Center shall be to lead, synchronize, and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining United States national security interests."

For example, the Center will be tasked with monitoring and tracking "counterfactual narratives abroad that threaten the national security interests of the United States and United States allies and partner nations". Lazare noted that the imprecise wording of the NDAA "could be interpreted as targeting information and communications critical of the US government".

The NDAA authorises the Global Engagement Center to provide "grants or contracts of financial support" to "civil society groups, media content providers, nongovernmental organizations, federally funded research and development centers, private companies, or academic institutions". These groups, according to Rick Sterling in a Consortium News article, would be hired to identify and investigate print and online news sources deemed to be distributing "disinformation…and propaganda directed at the United States and its allies and partners".

13. Right-Wing Money Promotes Legislation to Restrict Free Speech on US Campuses

Right-wing conservatives are using money and power to influence public policy to suppress student dissent on US college and university campuses.

The right-wing Goldwater Institute, which is funded by conservatives including Charles Koch and the Mercer family, has proposed model legislation that seeks to quell student dissent in favour of guest speakers who attempt to discredit climate change, oppose LGBTQ rights and espouse hate speech, Alex Kotch reported in March 2017 for AlterNet.

14. Judges across the United States Use Racially Biased Software to Assess Defendants' Risk of Committing Future Crimes

Courtrooms across the USA are using algorithmically generated scores, known as "risk assessments", to rate a defendant's risk of committing future crime and, in many states—including Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin—to unofficially inform judges' sentencing decisions. The Justice Department's National Institute of Corrections now encourages the use of such assessments at every stage of the criminal justice process.

For a study published in May 2016, a ProPublica team "obtained the risk scores assigned to more than 7,000 people arrested in Broward County, Florida, in 2013 and 2014 and checked to see how many were charged with new crimes over the next two years". The study was specifically intended to evaluate whether an algorithm known as COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions) produced accurate prediction results through its assessment of "so-called 'criminogenic needs' that relate to the major theories of criminality, including 'criminal personality', 'social isolation', 'substance abuse' and 'residence/stability'". The ProPublica team found that risk scores produced by the algorithm were "remarkably unreliable" in forecasting violent crimes: "Only 20 percent of the people predicted to commit violent crimes actually went on to do so." The team also found that the algorithm was "particularly likely to falsely flag black defendants as future criminals".

...the film addressed the potentially drastic consequences of climate change, including extreme weather, flooding, famines and climate refugees.

15. Shell Understood Climate Change as Early as 1991—and Ignored It

In 1991, Shell Oil Company produced and distributed a 28-minute documentary titled *Climate of Concern*. Asserting that climate change was taking place "at a rate faster than at any time since the end of the ice age—change too fast perhaps for life to adapt, without severe dislocation", the film addressed the potentially drastic consequences of climate change, including extreme weather, flooding, famines and climate refugees. While commenting that global warming is "not yet certain", the Shell film stated that "many think that to wait for final proof would be irresponsible".

The film's narrator explained that "a uniquely broad consensus of scientists" had issued a "serious warning" in a report to the United Nations at the end of 1990. (The landmark report identified in the Shell documentary was "Climate Change: The IPCC Scientific Assessment".)

16. "Resilient" Indian Communities Struggle to Cope with Impacts of Climate Change

The Sundarbans is a vast mangrove delta that connects India and Bangladesh along the coast of the Bay of Bengal. In Bengali, Sundarban means "beautiful forest", and the region has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. However, as Anuradha Sengupta reported for *Yes! Magazine* in June 2016, residents of islands such as Ghoramara in the Sundarbans are "struggling to cope" with rising seas, erratic weather patterns, severe floods, heavy rainfall and intense cyclones.

A Royal Bengal tiger photographed in the Sundarbans, the world's largest coastal mangrove forest with an area of 10,000 square kilometres. Located in the vast river deltas of the Bay of Bengal straddling India and Bangladesh, the Sundarbans was recognised in 1997 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Photo: Purnanshi)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that rising sea levels mean that areas like the Sundarbans "will bear the brunt of climate change", with submerged lands, farmlands damaged by increasingly saline soils, homes swept away, livelihoods destroyed and families broken apart. "The effects of global warming," Sengupta clarified, "will be most severe on those who did the least to contribute to it, and who can least afford measures to adapt or save themselves." Nevertheless, she added, "people here are resilient".

17. Young Plaintiffs Invoke Constitutional Grounds for Climate Protection

In September 2015, 21 plaintiffs aged from eight to 19 brought a lawsuit against the federal government and the fossil fuel industry to the US Federal District Court in Eugene, Oregon. In the case, *Juliana v. United States*, it was argued that the federal government and the fossil fuel industry have knowingly endangered the plaintiffs by

Julia Olson, Executive Director and Chief Legal Counsel of Our Children's Trust (Photo: ourchildrenstrust.org)

promoting the burning of fossil fuels, and this violates their constitutional and public trust rights. The plaintiffs said in their complaint that the defendants "deliberately allow[ed] atmospheric CO_2 concentrations to escalate to levels unprecedented in human history".

Julia Olson, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, is Executive Director of Our Children's Trust, a Eugene-based group advocating for "legally-binding, science-based climate recovery policies".

In April 2016, US Magistrate Judge Thomas Coffin denied a motion to dismiss the case, ruling in favour of the plaintiffs' charge that the federal government violates constitutional and public trust rights by its ongoing promotion of fossil fuels that destabilise the Earth's climate. In November 2016, US District Court Judge Ann Aiken affirmed Judge Coffin's ruling, preparing the way for *Juliana v. United States* to proceed to trial.

"This is no ordinary lawsuit," Judge Aiken wrote at the beginning of her opinion. As Professor Gabriela Steier reported for Jurist.org in January 2017, Judge Aiken went on to explain: "This action is of a different order than the typical environmental case. It alleges that defendants' actions and inactions—whether or not they violate any specific statutory duty—have so profoundly damaged our home planet that they threaten plaintiffs' fundamental constitutional rights to life and liberty."

In February 2017, the plaintiffs updated their case to list President Donald Trump as a defendant, replacing President Barack Obama. A month later, the Trump administration filed a motion to delay trial preparation.

As the *Censored 2018* yearbook goes to print, the plaintiffs are pursuing an effort to depose Rex Tillerson, Donald Trump's Secretary of State and former Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil. In the meantime, the USA's most powerful fossil fuel lobbies are seeking the judge's permission to withdraw from the lawsuit.

18. Rise in Number of Transgender Murders

In her "comprehensive look at transgender murders since 2010", Meredith Talusan reported for Mic Network in December 2016 on "how and why trans lives are not counted and what we can do to end the violence".

Talusan's overview began with a revealing comparison of homicide figures. Among the general US population, one in 19,000 persons is murdered every year. For young adults aged 15 to 34, the figure is one in 12,000; but for black trans women in the same age range, the rate is one in 2,600. Talusan wrote that if all Americans had the same murder risk in 2015 as young black trans women, then based on FBI data "there would have been 120,087 murders instead of 15,696 murders". Put another way, although the total number of transgender homicides per year may seem small, it "represents a rate of violence that far exceeds that of the general population".

In fact, as Talusan documented in her study, due to underreporting and misidentification (many trans murder victims are "misgendered" by officials and news reports, and even by immediate family members who sometimes reject a relative's transgender identity) "the actual trans murder rate is much higher".

"...far from any conventional battlefield or public scrutiny, tear gas and other chemical weapons are routinely used against people held captive in enclosed spaces..."

19. Chemical Weapons Used on US Prisoners

Daniel Moattar, writing for *The Nation* magazine, and Sarah Lazare, a journalist with AlterNet, reported on how chemical weapons, including several types of tear gas, are being used against prisoners in the United States, despite the fact that the international Chemical Weapons Convention of 1997 bans their use in warfare.

Lazare revealed that even though this arms control treaty now binds nearly 200 nations, "in prisons and jails across the United States, far from any conventional battlefield or public scrutiny, tear gas and other chemical weapons are routinely used against people held captive in enclosed spaces, including [in] solitary confinement".

Tear gas causes skin and respiratory irritation, intense pain and blindness; in severe cases, it can lead to death.

20. Seattle Activist Group Leads First Successful Campaign to Defund Police

In September 2016, the Block the Bunker campaign in Seattle, Washington, was the first to persuade US city officials to divest from police funding and allocate more tax dollars for community services.

As Melissa Hellman wrote for *Yes! Magazine* in March 2017, anti-racist grassroots activists protested in the

Supporters of Seattle's Block the Bunker campaign speak out against the plan for a new police station. (Photo: socialistworker.org)

summer of 2016 against the city's plan to spend nearly $150 million on a new police station in North Seattle. As a result, the mayor shelved the plan for the 2017 budget and added $29 million to the affordable housing budget.

According to The Movement for Black Lives, no other grassroots organisation is known to be actively working on divestment policy, and this is the first such campaign to be successful.

21. Fossil Fuel Industry Is "Colonising" American Universities

Without the public's awareness, fossil fuel interests—representing oil, gas and coal companies as well as utilities and investors—"have colonized nearly every nook and cranny of energy and climate policy research in American universities", two PhD associates from Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) wrote in March 2017 in the *Guardian*.

Fossil fuel interests dominate energy and climate policy research at the most prominent universities, including Harvard, MIT, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. According to Dr Benjamin Franta and Dr Geoffrey Supran in their article: "…The very experts we assume to be objective, and the very centers of research we assume to be independent, are connected with the very industry the public believes they are objectively studying. Moreover, these connections are often kept hidden." Having more than just "conflicts of interest", these are "industry projects with the appearance of neutrality and credibility given by academia".

22. Lawsuit Exposes Militarisation of Law Enforcement inside Prisons

Against a backdrop of national concern over the militarisation of police, Brian Dolinar reported in January 2017 for Truthout that a judge has approved a 2015 lawsuit against 232 Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) officers to proceed to the discovery phase. The class-action suit, *Ross v. Gossett*, brought on behalf of prisoners at Menard, Illinois River, Big Muddy River and Lawrence correctional centres, alleges that the "Orange Crush" tactical team used excessive force, including physical and sexual abuse, when it conducted mass shakedowns in the spring of 2014. As Dolinar wrote, "less is known beyond prison walls about guards who regularly brutalize those incarcerated", but the Illinois lawsuit "names a list of horrific abuses" including "strip searches, beatings and mass shakedowns of cells", indicating how the militarisation of law enforcement has occurred inside prisons as well as in public.

Dolinar described the development and increasing use of so-called Special Operations Response Teams, also known as tactical teams, in prisons across the US since the 1971 rebellion at Attica in New York. Dolinar's report focused in particular on one such group within IDOC that has come to be known informally as the "Orange Crush", referencing their orange jumpsuits and "horrific abuses". IDOC Orange Crush teams, Dolinar noted, emerged after 1996 when Illinois attempted to address the problem of prison gangs, including the Vice Lords and Latin Kings, that "ran many illicit operations with the full cooperation of prison authorities".

An IDOC "Orange Crush" tactical team in action (Image: from a video posted by Joe Galbo on YouTube)

23. Facebook Buys Sensitive User-Data to Offer Marketers Targeted Advertising

Julia Angwin, Terry Parris, Jr, and Surya Mattu reported for ProPublica that, since 2012, Facebook has been buying sensitive information about users' offline lives from data-brokers and combining it with the online data it collects, in order to sell this information to advertisers who seek to target specific types of Facebook users for its products and services.

Facebook utilises "a particularly comprehensive set of dossiers" on its more than two billion members in order to "offer marketers a chance to target ads to increasingly

specific groups of people". As Angwin, Parris and Mattu exposed in their article of September 2016, "Facebook offers advertisers more than 1,300 categories for ad targeting—everything from people whose property size is less than .26 acres to households with exactly seven credit cards".

In their December 2016 ProPublica report, the authors quoted Jeffrey Chester, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Democracy. Facebook is "not being honest", he said. "Facebook is bundling a dozen different data companies to target an individual customer, and an individual should have access to that bundle as well."

24. Eight Use-of-Force Policies to Prevent Killings by Police

Killings by the police are not inevitable or difficult to prevent, according to a study published in September 2016 by Campaign Zero, a police-reform group formed in the aftermath of the Ferguson protests.

The study, titled "Police Use of Force Policy Analysis", examined police departments in 91 of the USA's largest cities and found that departments with stricter use-of-force regulations killed significantly fewer people. Noting that "many police departments fail to establish common sense restrictions on police use of force" and that police violence is "distributed disproportionally", with black people being three times more likely to be killed by police than their white counterparts, the study's authors wrote that "fundamentally changing use of force polic[i]es can dramatically reduce the number of people killed by police in America". The study identified eight policies to restrict how and when police officers should use force.

Samuel Sinyangwe, one of the study's researchers and authors, explained to Alice Speri of The Intercept that few departments have implemented all or most of these policies, partly due to "resistance from police unions that claim more restrictive policies will endanger officers". On the contrary, the Campaign Zero study showed that the numbers of officers assaulted or killed in the line of duty decreased in proportion to the number of regulations adopted by their department.

As Jamilah King wrote for Mic in September 2016, the study is "the first wide-scale analysis to demonstrate the connection between differing 'use of force' policies and the rate of police killings".

Sinyangwe told King: "Two years ago we didn't even have the data to know which police departments were killing people at higher rates than others and why. Now we can identify the key policies to prevent these killings."

25. Juvenile Court Fees Punish Children for Their Families' Poverty

Children from low-income families across the United States are being imprisoned when their families cannot afford to pay court fees, Nika Knight reported in August 2016 for Common Dreams. These children face, aside from court costs, fees for probation, health tests, care and additional services in juvenile facilities. This amounts to "punishing children for their families' poverty", Knight observed, "and that may be unconstitutional".

For her article, Knight drew on a 2016 report by the Juvenile Law Center, a legal aid advocacy group, which "reviewed statutes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to assess the legal framework for financial obligations placed on youth in the juvenile justice system and their families".

Knight identified "myriad ways" in which juvenile court systems levy fines on children's families "and then imprison those children when their families are too poor to pay the mounting costs". These include, for example, monthly fees on families whose children are sentenced to probation, the costs of "diversion" programs intended to keep children out of detention, and charges for court-ordered evaluations and tests (such as mental health evaluations, tests for sexually transmitted diseases, and drug and alcohol assessments). When families cannot afford to pay these fees and fines, children may be incarcerated instead.

Furthermore, Knight elaborated, in some states parents themselves may also face imprisonment if they fail to pay fees and fines levied against their children. Incarcerating parents puts children at further risk and also adds to the stresses on families who are already struggling with the consequences of poverty.

The authors of the Juvenile Law Center's report stated: "…When parents face incarceration or mounting debt for failure to pay, they have even fewer resources to devote to educating, helping, and supporting their children." ∞

Editor's Note:

This article is excerpted and edited from the Project Censored compilation "The Top 25 Censored Stories of 2016–2017". To see the full text with references and links, go to the web page http://tinyurl.com/yaaj6nhq. For more information and to purchase copies of the yearbook *Censored 2018: Press Freedoms in a "Post-Truth" World*, edited by Andy Lee Roth and Mickey Huff with Project Censored (Seven Stories Press, New York, October 2017), go to http://www.projectcensored.org.

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Gardasil:
Fast-Tracked and Flawed

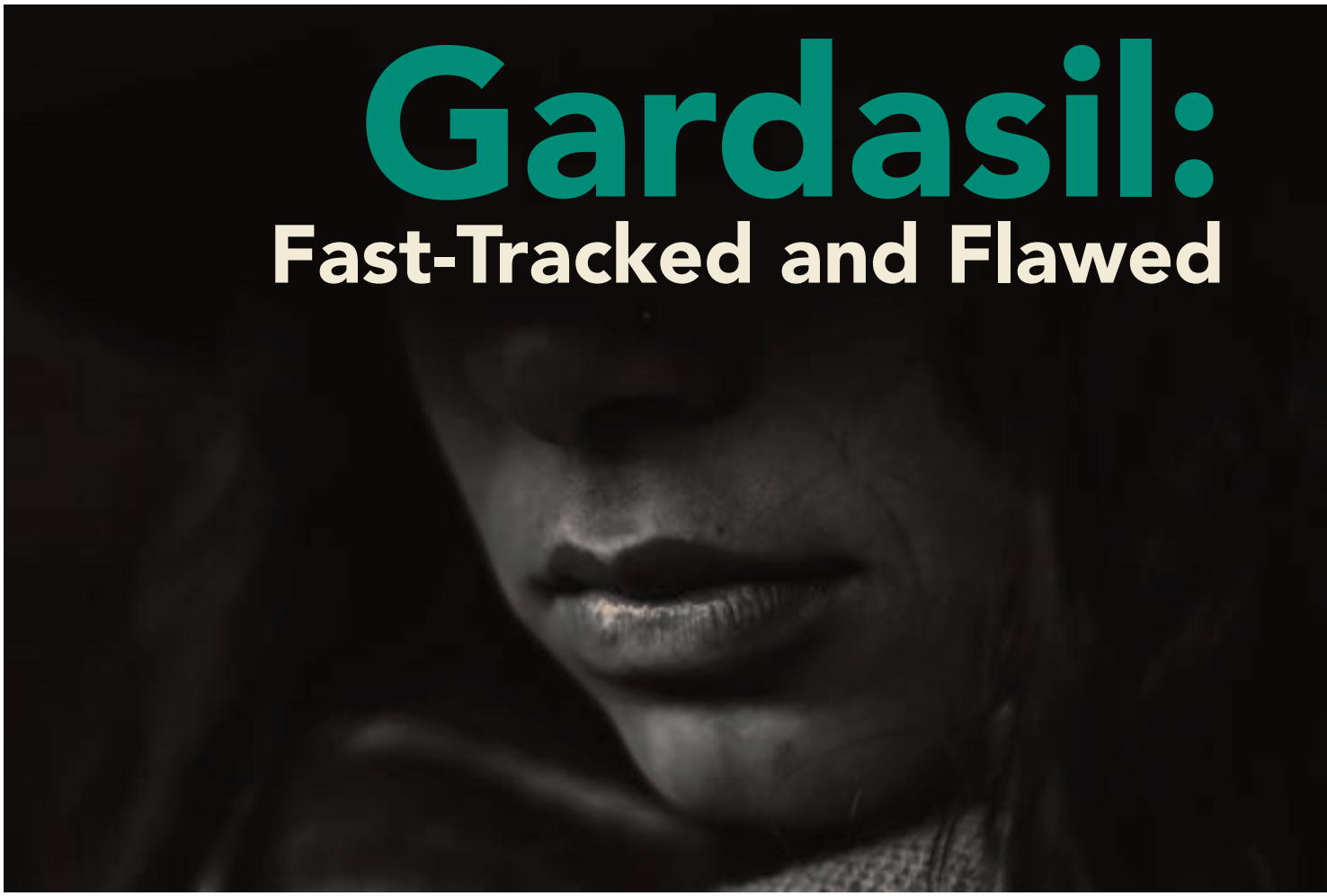


Photo: Zach Guinta, unsplash.com

Vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) were poorly tested, contain unsafe additives and are associated with adverse events.

by Helen Lobato © October 2017

Understanding Cervical Cancer

As a nurse, I have cared for women with advanced cervical cancer, an awful terminal disease. Often it is a gradual decline towards death, accompanied by the indignity and nuisance of foul vaginal discharge. Measures such as frequent baths and the topical use of aromatherapy oils help to mask the unpleasant odours and provide a necessary distraction from the failing body, the once strong self.

While stories about breast cancer victims are plentiful, it is rare to read tangible accounts of women with cervical cancer, particularly the stories of older women with the disease. This is surprising when, according to researchers at Keele University in the UK, 20 per cent of cases of cervical cancer and almost half of the deaths occur in women aged over 64 (*The Guardian*, 2015).

Cervical cancer is a malignant tumour arising from cells of the cervix—the lower, narrow section of the uterus—that have undergone changes, first causing a condition called cervical dysplasia. This is usually symptomless, with the condition picked up when a woman has a Pap smear (WebMD, 2017). While it is not cancer, it is referred

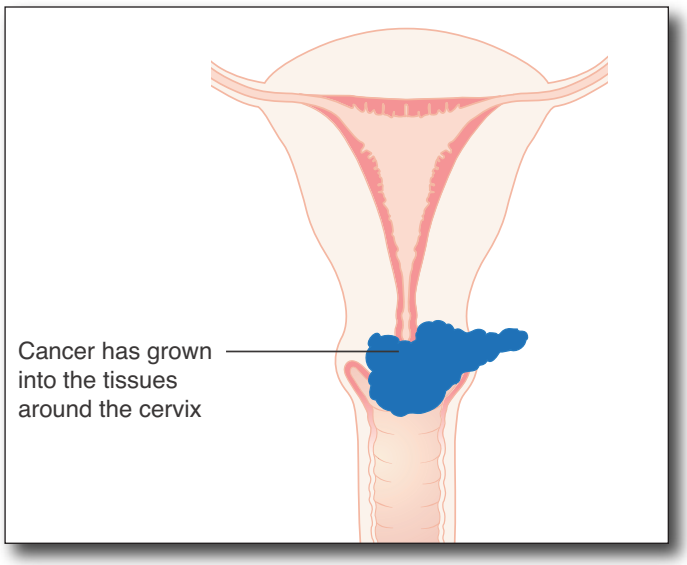


Diagram showing stage 2B cervical cancer in blue. (Image: Cancer Research UK/Wikimedia Commons)

to as a precancerous condition. Most cases of cervical dysplasia, also known as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), do not progress to cancer. There are three stages of CIN, indicating the severity of the disease. CIN 1 is mild cervical dysplasia and it may go away on its own without treatment, although it may be judicious to have follow-up smears just in case. The second stage is CIN 2 or moderate dysplasia. The third stage is CIN 3 or severe dysplasia. CIN 2 and 3 are usually treated by removing the abnormal cells. (Macmillan, 2015)

The stage from the development of abnormal cervical cells to the development of cervical cancer can take years and may depend on the health of the particular woman (Dyson, 1986, pp. 13-16). Linda Dyson, author of *Cervical Cancer: A Book for Every Woman*, suggests that the manner in which the disease progresses and the time it takes may be influenced by factors such as a woman's "immunity to disease, or other factors such as whether she smokes or uses an oral contraceptive" (p. 16).

There are two types of cervical cancer. Squamous cell carcinoma is the most common and accounts for over 70 per cent of cervical cancers. A less prevalent form of the disease, adenocarcinoma, arises in the glandular cells and is more difficult to diagnose than squamous cell carcinoma. The risk factors for cervical cancer are many and include smoking, a weakened immune system, multiple pregnancies, a family history of the disease, the prolonged use of birth control pills and, more recently, HPV, the human papillomavirus (Cancer Council Victoria, 2015a; Wang *et al.*, 2009; American Cancer Society, 2016). The daughters of women who took the synthetic oestrogen drug diethylstilbestrol (DES) while pregnant—commonly called DES daughters—have about a 40 times greater risk of developing clear-cell adenocarcinoma of the cervix than women who were not exposed to the drug. Although this type of cancer is rare, about one in 1,000 DES daughters goes on to develop it. (National Cancer Institute, 2011)

In the mid–19th century, 80 per cent of cancer fatalities in women were from breast or uterine cancer, with cancer of the uterus being responsible for most of these deaths (Löwy, 2011, p. 18). Prior to the development of surgery, belladonna, hemlock, strychnine, lead and even mercury were applied to the lesions in the hope that they would rid the body of this "cancerous poison" (p. 21). Once surgery became available, treatments like cauterisation were used to address the horrific complications that can occur in advanced cervical cancer (p. 30). One of these is the formation of a fistula, "a permanent connection between the vagina and urethra and/or rectum", and women with this unfortunate condition suffered from incontinence, with loss of "blood, urine and faeces", as well as distress (p. 32). Understandably, they experienced their ill health as "a fate worse than death" (pp. 32).

These days, the most common treatment for cervical cancer is surgery and/or a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Most women who are diagnosed early with cervical cancer or cancer in situ can be effectively treated and cured. In Australia, the five-year survival rate is 72 per cent. (Cancer Council Australia, 2016a)

What Causes Cervical Cancer?

Numerous theories as to the cause(s) of cervical cancer have come and gone over the decades.

There are accounts from early-19th-century physicians who claimed that "sexual excesses and immorality" were involved, and it was observed that the disease was found in larger numbers among poorer, city women than among married and financially more secure women living in rural areas (Löwy, p. 129). Domenico Rigoni-Stern, an Italian surgeon, followed this dubious line of reasoning and claimed that cervical cancer rarely occurred in nuns (p. 130). This theory was later discounted when a study revealed that, in fact, religious sisters were subject to the

Physicians in the 19th century thought cervical cancer was more prevalent in poorer, city women. (Archival photo of a family in Bethnal Green, London, c. 1880s)

disease, too, and that, contrary to the prevailing opinion, women in long-term relationships also developed cervical cancer. Research by British physician J. C. W. Lever, MD, found that "single women bear a proportion of 5.83 per cent, married women 86.6 per cent, and widows 7.5 per cent" of cases of cancer of the womb (p. 131).

With the notion discredited that sexual excesses and/or immorality caused cervical cancer, researchers began to suspect that a "chronic irritation" or some underlying inflammatory process could be the missing link (Löwy, p. 132). In the case of cancer of the uterus, it was proposed that the trauma of childbirth itself could be a risk factor. Such speculation might explain why there was more cervical cancer among women of low socioeconomic status than among women of means: poorer women tended to have more children, live harsher lives, receive less medical care, and miss out on much-needed rest and recovery time after the births of their children (p. 134).

I believe that these early researchers were on the right track when they proposed that social circumstances such as poverty and inequality were in some way implicated in the disease process.

The British psychologist, researcher and author Susan Quilliam documented these lifestyle factors that might increase the chance of becoming ill with cervical cancer in her 1989 book *Positive Smear*. Writing just before the idea emerged that the human papillomavirus might be involved in cervical cancer, she stresses the importance of having a balanced diet and claims that deficiencies in vitamin C, beta carotene and folic acid are common in women with cervical precancerous cells. Quilliam also emphasises the importance of a healthy environment, good hygiene and excellent nutrition as prerequisites for good health and resistance to disease (Quilliam, 1989, pp. 96-98). In her observations on the causes of cervical cancer, she doesn't shy away from commenting on the contraceptive pill and how it has a negative effect on natural immunity as well as a propensity to lessen the body's ability to use folic acid (p. 99).

HPV is now seen as the main culprit, and any discussion that there may be other factors that lead to this disease is silenced in the mainstream media.

Regrettably, since Quilliam's book was published in 1989, the pendulum has swung back to regarding cervical cancer as a disease associated with sexual activity. HPV is now seen as the main culprit, and any discussion that there may be other factors that lead to this disease is silenced in the mainstream media. Why, when and how this happened is crucial to the story of *Gardasil: Fast-Tracked and Flawed* (Lobato, 2017).

The False Promise of HPV Vaccines

There are many concerns about the wholesale adoption of vaccines against the human papillomavirus, and one of these is the nature of the vaccine itself.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO):

"A vaccine is a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism, and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins or one of its surface proteins. The agent stimulates the body's immune system to recognize the agent as foreign, destroy it, and 'remember' it, so that the immune system can more easily recognize and destroy any of these microorganisms that it later encounters." (WHO, 2016a)

The Gardasil® HPV vaccine is manufactured by Merck Sharp & Dohme for sale in Japan. (Photo: Melvil)

Well and good—or is it? Not according to vaccine researcher Lucija Tomljenovic, PhD, who discusses the way that vaccines act in the human body in a letter titled "Forced Vaccinations: For the Greater Good?". Her letter was sent to a California State Senate committee in 2015 when it was debating a mandatory vaccination law. Dr Tomljenovic describes how vaccines fail to bring about cellular immunity and thus protection from disease:

"…vaccines primarily stimulate humoral immunity (antibody-based or Th2 responses) while they have little or no effect on cellular immunity (cytotoxic T-cells, Th1 responses), which is absolutely crucial for protection against viral as well as some bacterial pathogens." (Tomljenovic, 2015, p. 7)

Dr Tomljenovic suggests that this failure to bring about cellular immunity may be why booster shots of vaccines are often needed (p. 7).

Vaccination immunity doesn't last, whereas natural immunity continues over time. There are two parts to the immune system. One is the humoral immune system, which primarily produces antibodies in the blood in response to the presence of foreign antigens in the body. This is where vaccines have most influence. Then there's the cellular or cell-mediated immune system, which rids

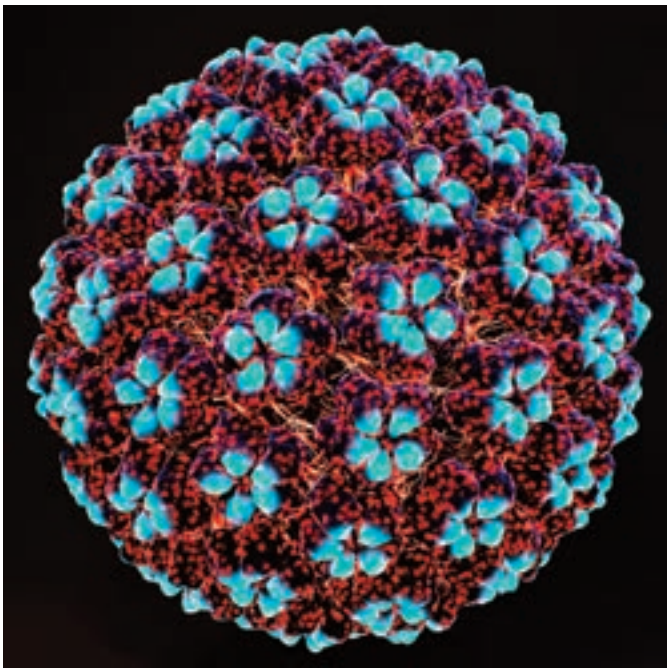


Illustration showing the structure of the human papillomavirus type 16. (Image: std.uw.edu)

the body of foreign antigens and in the process manifests an acute inflammatory response in the body, exhibiting signs such as fever and malaise. If a vaccine stimulated the whole immune system, the vaccinated person would have an inflammatory response and would develop all the symptoms of disease. (Incao, 2006) Philip F. Incao, MD, sums it up like this:

"Vaccinations are usually effective in preventing an individual from manifesting a particular illness, but they do not improve the overall strength or health of the individual nor of the immune system." (Incao, 2006)

But immunity is rarely described in this manner, and so vaccines are largely accepted as the way for communities to stay healthy and stem the spread of disease.

Currently, there are three HPV vaccines on the market: the quadrivalent vaccine Gardasil®, which was produced to be protective against four HPV types: 6, 11, 16 and 18; the bivalent vaccine Cervarix®, to be protective against two HPV types: 16 and 18; and the nonavalent vaccine Gardasil® 9, to be protective against nine HPV types: 6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58.

HPV vaccines are sold as preventatives against cervical cancer, whereas in reality they are vaccines that protect against a few strains of the human papillomavirus. This vaccination program began and continues in spite of the fact that cervical cancer is a rare outcome of a persistent infection with one or more of the cancer-causing types of human papillomavirus (AIHW, 2015). The plain fact is that most HPV infections are asymptomatic, and more than 90 per cent of detected infections are naturally cleared by the immune system within two years (WHO, 2007).

In their paper "The causal relation between human papillomavirus and cervical cancer", Bosch *et al.* state that "HPV has been proposed as the first ever identified, 'necessary cause' of a human cancer" and that "cervical cancer does not and will not develop in the absence of the persistent presence of HPV DNA" (Bosch *et al.*, 2002). But in the same paper the authors state that studies have "unequivocally shown that HPV DNA can be detected in adequate specimens of cervical cancer in 90–100% of cases". This contradicts their previous statement that the disease won't occur without the presence of HPV. That it will not develop without the presence of HPV DNA is mostly untrue, for according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 91 per cent of cervical cancer cases were found to be HPV positive. In the USA over a period of one year, there were 11,771 cases, of which 10,700 were HPV positive. (CDC, 2016)

An Inappropriate Surrogate Endpoint

In her 2015 doctoral thesis, "A critical analysis of the Australian government's rationale for its vaccination policy", Judy Wilyman states that scientists saw it as "their duty to trial an HPV vaccine even though their evidence that HPV 16/18 were the determining cause of cervical cancer was incomplete" (Wilyman, 2015, p. 224).

However, there are more problems with the claim that HPV vaccines are effective against cervical cancer. HPV vaccines have never been tested against cervical cancer outcomes. It can take decades from HPV infection to the development of cervical cancer, so such definitive testing is simply not possible (WHO, 2009). Instead, a surrogate endpoint was used to support the conclusion that HPV vaccines would be effective in preventing cervical cancer.

Surrogate endpoints, or markers, are chosen when it is impractical to use real clinical outcomes as endpoints. This is because clinical trials may take too long for the outcomes to be determined, they may cause discomfort or harm to the persons involved, or they may just be too expensive to undertake (Chin, 2016). Richard Chin, MD, states that "in many instances, surrogate endpoints have turned out not to be predictive of clinical response at all" (Chin, 2016). But Kelly Brogan, MD, says that the use of surrogate endpoints "is considered acceptable because we can't otherwise prove a non-event is attributable to an intervention" (Brogan, 2015).

However, the surrogate endpoint or marker that was chosen to support the hypothesis that HPV vaccines may be effective against cervical cancer was not appropriate. It was cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) grade 2/3 lesions or adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS) (WHO, 2007). This surrogate endpoint was decided even though these precursor lesions are common in young women under 25 years and rarely progress to cancer (WHO, 2008, p. 8). In fact, only five per cent of HPV infections go on to become CIN grade 2 or 3 lesions within three years. Of those CIN 3 lesions that don't clear up naturally, only 20 per cent turn into an invasive carcinoma within five years and only

40 per cent go on to develop into an invasive carcinoma within 30 years. (Heitmann and Harper, 2012, p. 97) In sum, very few of these CIN 2 and 3 precursor lesions in young women develop into cancer, so it is difficult to support their use as a surrogate endpoint or marker for cervical cancer.

…millions of girls continue to be injected with a vaccine that has only been measured against a surrogate endpoint: precursor lesions that most often do not lead to cervical cancer.

This is an incredible situation, and I invite readers to reflect on what this means. All over the world, millions of girls continue to be injected with a vaccine that has only been measured against a surrogate endpoint: precursor lesions that most often do not lead to cervical cancer. If the vaccine had no adverse effects, we could just rail against the capitalist nature of Big Pharma. But in the light of the thousands of girls (and boys) who fall seriously ill after HPV shots, we also have to seriously question the ethics inherent in the HPV vaccine industry and ask why governments continue to subsidise them.

Problems with HPV Vaccine Trials and Efficacy

But clearly Merck, the manufacturer of Gardasil, takes a different view. For her doctoral thesis, Judy Wilyman researched the HPV vaccine trials. She found that when it was revealed that women (15 to 26 years of age) who were given the vaccine developed fewer precursor lesions (grade 2/3) than women who were *not* given the vaccine, Merck claimed that the vaccine prevents "100% of high-grade disease and 'non-invasive' cervical cancers associated with HPV infection" (Wilyman, 2015, p. 241). However, Wilyman contends that, in reality, this result depended on the group studied, and that the significant reduction in precursor lesions was observed only in the study group that had not been infected with HPV 16/18 at baseline (pp. 241-242). It is important to note that if CIN 3 does change into invasive cancer, this progression occurs over 8.1 to 12.6 years—but the longest follow-up study for phase three clinical trials examining the efficacy against precursor lesions was only four years (p. 242). Wilyman concludes: "Therefore, the correct assumption is that pre-cursor lesions in this age-group are not an indication that cervical cancer will develop from high-risk HPV infections"—or in other words, as she asserts, "there is no evidence of how much cervical cancer this vaccine may prevent" (p. 242).

Contrary to what the medical fraternity and the vaccine manufacturers would have us believe, to this day none of the HPV vaccines has ever been proven to prevent a single case of cervical cancer.

Diane Harper, MD, a former HPV vaccine researcher with Merck who is now a whistleblower, admits that vaccinating girls will not protect them against cervical cancer for it can take a decade or more for dysplasia to develop. As Dr Harper puts it:

"It is silly to mandate vaccination of 11- to 12-year-old girls. There also is not enough evidence gathered on side effects to know that safety is not an issue.

"This vaccine has not been tested in little girls for efficacy. At 11, these girls don't get cervical cancer—they won't know for 25 years if they will get cervical cancer." (Sharav, 2007)

Merck knows this, according to Harper: "To mandate now is simply to Merck's benefit, and only to Merck's benefit." (Sharav, 2007)

This point is supported by health researcher Renate Klein, PhD:

"Let's not forget that Gardasil was fast tracked through the FDA [US Food and Drug Administration], a process normally reserved for life saving drugs." (Klein, 2008)

Luckily for Merck, as Dr Klein observes, Gardasil has given the pharmaceutical company the necessary funds to pay compensation owed to the victims of Vioxx®, the arthritis drug which caused thousands of heart attacks and deaths. Also in receipt of proceeds from this vaccine is CSL Ltd [formerly Commonwealth Serum Laboratories], the distributor of Gardasil in Australia and New Zealand which receives royalties from Merck. (Klein, 2008)

Fast-Tracking Vaccines for Unmet Medical Need

For a drug or vaccine to be fast-tracked, it must be a treatment for a serious disease and it must fill an unmet medical need. Did Gardasil fill this unmet need? Not according to Norma Erickson, one of the founders of the US-based SaneVax, Inc. organisation. She agrees that cervical cancer is a serious disease but suggests that Gardasil does not fill an unmet need:

"…Due to regular cancer screening and appropriate medical follow-up when abnormal cervical cells are

detected, cervical cancer rates in the United States have dropped over 74% and continue to decline. This is the case in most developed countries around the world. So, where is the 'unmet medical need'?" (Erickson, 2010)

In spite of the fact that there was no "unmet" need, because cervical cancer rates had fallen over the past few decades at least in developed countries as a result of cervical smear testing and improvements in the standard of living, HPV vaccines continue to be injected into young people. In 2014 in Australia, 223 women died as a result of cervical cancer (Cancer Council Australia, 2016a). While every one of these deaths is of course tragic, there is no cervical cancer epidemic in Australia or in other developed nations.

Vaccines such as Gardasil® and Cervarix® contain unsafe aluminium adjuvants. (Image: circleofdocs.com)

Adverse Reactions and Dangerous Additives

The year 2016 was the 10th anniversary of the first HPV vaccination with Gardasil in the USA. The vaccination program began in Australia in April 2007 (Colvin, 2007).

Gardasil is a genetically engineered vaccine. Similar to the situation with genetically engineered foods, we do not know enough about the long-term health effects of such experimental products on the bodies of developing adolescents. The passionate health reformer and author Joseph Mercola, DO, asks:

"…What happens when foreign DNA is inserted into the human body is a mystery. Will it trigger undesirable changes in human cells or tissues? Will it combine or exchange genetic material with human DNA? Will it transfer to future generations? No one knows…" (Mercola, 2012)

While the answers to these questions remain unknown, what we do know is that there have been thousands of reports of adverse reactions following the administration of HPV vaccines. These adverse reactions manifest as:

"…sudden collapse with unconsciousness within 24 hours; seizures; muscle pain and weakness; disabling fatigue; Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS); facial paralysis; brain inflammation; rheumatoid arthritis; lupus; blood clots; optic neuritis; multiple sclerosis; strokes; heart and other serious health problems, including death, following receipt of Gardasil vaccine." (Fisher, 2016)

A study of the contents of the Gardasil vaccine reveals that, along with the proteins of the human papillomavirus types 6, 11, 16 and 18, it contains additives including aluminium, yeast protein, sodium chloride, L-histidine, polysorbate 80 and sodium borate (Merck, 2011). Of particular concern is the presence of sodium borate, the main ingredient in boric acid that's often used to kill cockroaches. Sodium borate and polysorbate 80 have been linked to infertility. (Off The Radar, 2016)

We should not be surprised, then, that in January 2016 the American College of Pediatricians found it necessary to issue a press release advising that Gardasil could be "associated with the very rare but serious condition of premature ovarian failure" (Field, 2016). The College expressed concern that the vaccine's effect on long-term ovarian function had not been studied, and stated that since Gardasil was licensed in 2006 there have been more than 200 reports made on the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) involving amenorrhoea and premature ovarian failure (POF), also known as premature menopause (Field, 2016).

Gardasil includes significant amounts of aluminium, used as an adjuvant to increase the body's immune response. It beggars belief that this metal is allowed to be put into vaccines. Studies have shown that aluminium adjuvants can result in the metal entering the brain and that aluminium can cause nerve cell death as well as inflammation at the injection site leading to chronic joint and muscle pain, according to the US-based National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC, 2006). This is an extremely important warning because Gardasil contains 225 micrograms (mcg or μg) of aluminium (CSL, 2016). This is bad enough, but it gets worse when one realises that the recommended course of Gardasil is three shots (Merck, 2011), bringing the total amount of aluminium injected to 675 mcg. More incredible still is that Merck's latest HPV vaccine, the nonavalent Gardasil 9, contains even more aluminium. One dose of Gardasil 9, approved by the US FDA in 2014 for the prevention of cervical, vulvar, vaginal and anal cancers, contains 500 mcg of aluminium adjuvant—more than twice as much as the original Gardasil vaccine (Erickson, 2014c). This is even more alarming considering that Merck recommends two or three shots of Gardasil 9 depending on the age of the recipient (Merck, 2016), in which case the total amount of aluminium injected ranges from 1,000 to 1,500 mcg.

There is no reason to think that Cervarix, the bivalent vaccine designed to prevent infection from HPV types 16 and 18, is any safer. Manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the vaccine has been used in Europe and Australia since 2007. It was licensed in the USA in 2009, but GSK has since ceased production because of low demand (Mulcahy, 2016). Cervarix includes an adjuvant system known as AS04, containing aluminium hydroxide and an

Dr Deirdre Little, interviewed in the *Truth and Gardasil* video produced by Family Life International, Australia. (Source: YouTube, 24 April 2013)

immune system modulator called MPL, creating a much stronger immune response (GSK, 2007). Cervarix was studied for fewer than six years and in fewer than 1,200 healthy girls under the age of 15; it was not tested against a true placebo but was compared against the hepatitis A vaccine and other childhood vaccines that can also cause adverse reactions (NVIC, 2016). Is it any wonder that the number of girls and boys suffering from adverse effects after HPV vaccinations continues to rise?

It is not difficult to see why HPV vaccines are associated with more deaths and serious adverse effects than other vaccines. In 2008, the NVIC published its Gardasil risk report which revealed that deaths and serious adverse events are reported three to 30 times more often after vaccination with Gardasil than after the meningococcal (Menactra®) vaccination (Fisher, 2009b).

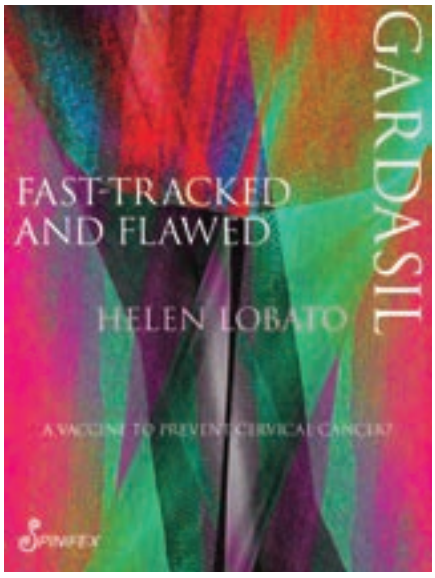
So where is the outrage over the inclusion of dangerous additives in these now common vaccines against HPV? Have any health authorities responded to the concerns expressed by the American College of Pediatricians? Don't people realise that these toxic chemicals are being injected into adolescents? We really have to ask the question: how do the HPV vaccine manufacturers get away with it?

Deirdre Little, MBBS, is a general practitioner working in the small town of Bellingen in northern New South Wales, Australia (Lobato, 2017, pp. 15-16). Dr Little comes face to face with girls and young women who visit her practice, feeling ill after receiving the Gardasil vaccination. She is a rare breed of doctor, for she is speaking publicly about the HPV vaccination program. In an April 2013 interview published on YouTube, Dr Little relates the story of a 16-year-old female patient afflicted by premature menopause after Gardasil vaccination. Unfortunately this was not an isolated incident, for other Gardasil-vaccinated girls have reported to her that their periods became scanty and irregular. (FLI Australia, 2013)

On undertaking further research, Dr Little discovered that, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia, Gardasil's manufacturer had not conducted any studies on Gardasil and ovarian function or any research on its ongoing effects on fertility. In the interview, she explains that approval of the vaccine was fast-tracked, noting that a vaccine is fast-tracked when there is an urgent need for it. However, she clarifies that, of fast-tracked vaccines, "one in three to one in five are actually withdrawn from the market due to adverse reactions". (FLI, 2013)

Dr Little wonders why HPV vaccines were introduced at all when "the Pap smear program in Australia had already reduced cervical cancer by about 70 per cent". She also comments that there are no studies showing how much cancer an HPV vaccine can prevent. (FLI, 2013)

This is Dr Little's advice to parents: "…I personally don't think there's enough information in the government handouts for any parent to give a valid, informed consent regarding Gardasil." (FLI, 2013) ∞



About the Author:

Helen Lobato is an independent health researcher in Australia with a background in critical care nursing. She holds a media studies degree, and for many years was a presenter of community radio programs focusing on women's current affairs and women's health. Lobato is the author of *Gardasil: Fast-Tracked and Flawed – A Vaccine to Prevent Cervical Cancer?* (Spinifex Press, Qld, Australia, 2017). She posts regular updates about Gardasil on her blog, helenlobato.com, and can be emailed at helobato@gmail.com.

Editor's Note:

This article is edited from chapters 2 and 5 ("Cervical Cancer" and "HPV Vaccines") of Helen Lobato's book (reviewed in NEXUS 24/06). Because of space constraints, references for this article are only available on our website. Copies of the book can be obtained from NEXUS Magazine at http://www.nexusmagazine.com.

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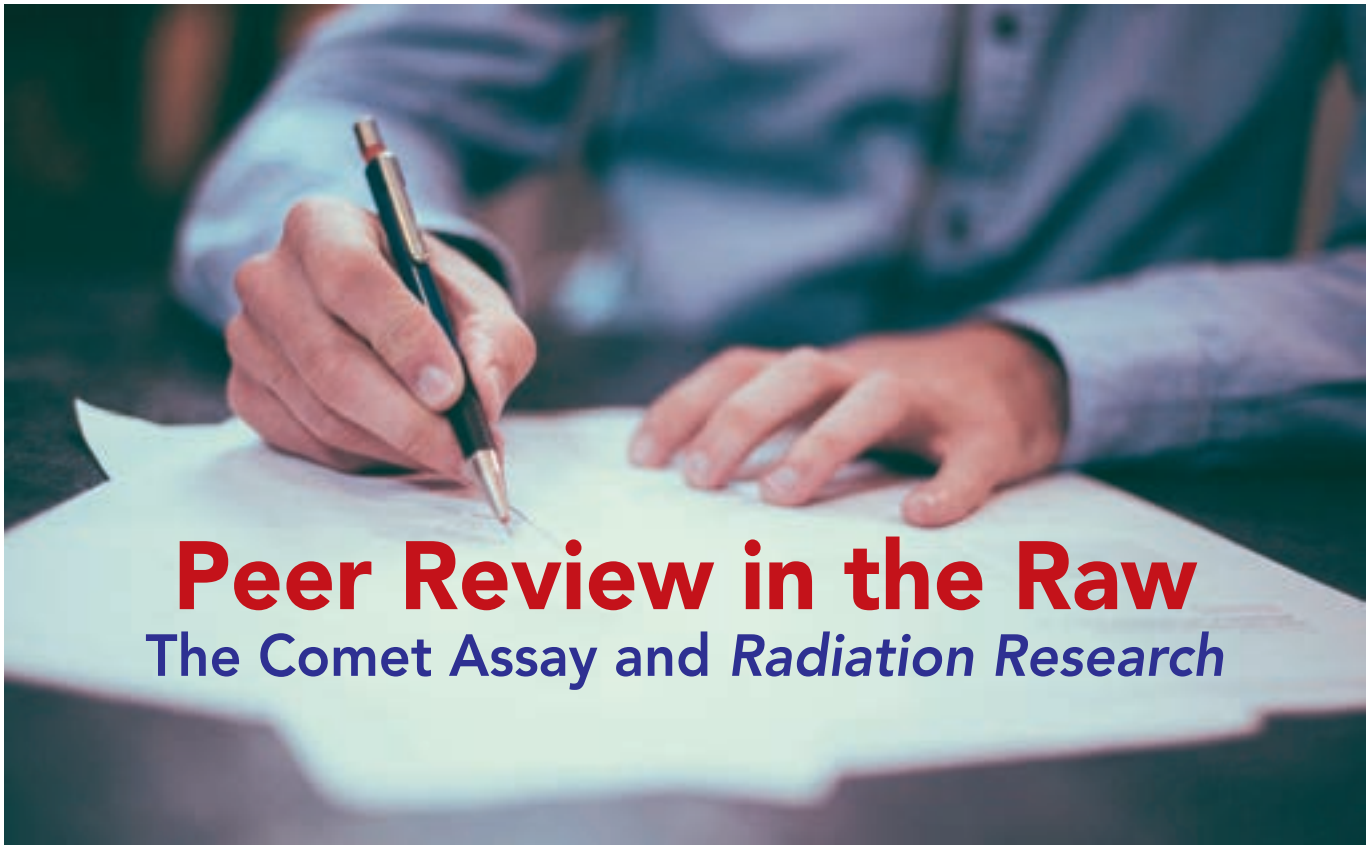


Peer Review in the Raw

The Comet Assay and *Radiation Research*

Industry vested interests schemed to discredit two scientists and their discovery linking microwave exposure to genetic damage.

by Louis Slesin, PhD, Microwave News.com © April–October 2017

Narendra P. Singh, MBBS, known to his friends and colleagues simply as "N.P.", died in December 2016 at the age of sixty-nine. When his family wrote to me with the news, Singh's wife asked me not to publish a tribute or an obituary at that time. I honoured her request, but now, after a decent interval, I break my silence, in part to make good on a promise and to settle some unfinished business.

Research Associate Professor Singh was a proud and honest man; he was also gentle and unassuming. "He cannot tell a lie, even a white lie," Professor Henry Lai, his long-time collaborator at the University of Washington in Seattle, told me years ago. Perhaps most of all, Singh was a meticulous experimentalist who believed in the power of science.

Singh was born and educated in India, then moved to America in 1980 to take a job at the National Center for Toxicological Research in Arkansas. He is best known for his work on the development of the comet assay, a now-standard technique to detect DNA damage. The assay is so named for the comet-like tail formed by fragments of broken DNA. The greater the DNA damage, the longer and more diffuse the tail. Singh's assay is used around the world to assess the genetic toxicity of all sorts of chemicals and radiation.

The landmark paper by Narendra Singh *et al.*[1] on the

comet assay was published in 1988, based on Singh's studies of the DNA damage caused by X-rays. That single paper has been cited close to 10,000 times—an astonishingly large number. For perspective, that's about twice as often as the 1953 paper on the structure of DNA by Dr James Watson and Dr Francis Crick.[2]

In 1992, Motorola released the first digital hand-sized mobile telephone.
(Photo: phoneevolution.wordpress.com)

A few years later, Singh turned his attention to the non-ionising side of the radiation spectrum. He moved to the University of Washington in 1994, where Henry Lai was running experiments exposing animals to microwaves. They would continue to work together for the next 22 years. (Lai retired five years ago.)

Like so many others, Singh paid dearly for that decision. It would change his professional and personal life. Singh felt as if he had fallen through the looking glass and entered a twilight zone where science was in the service of money and politics. But it was the real world, one that Singh did not and could not understand. It literally made him sick.

Motorola Asks Roti Roti to Replicate the Lai–Singh DNA Study

I got to know Narendra Singh in the mid-1990s after he and Henry Lai surprised just about everyone with the discovery that microwaves could cause DNA breaks in the brains of rats.[3] News of their findings leaked out and spread quickly within industry circles. Even before the publication of their first co-written paper, operatives from Motorola and the powerful industry lobby group CTIA [Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association] came to their lab to see what they could find out.

At the time, the nascent cellphone industry was still reeling from a lawsuit filed several years earlier by David Reynard of St Petersburg, Florida. Reynard claimed that his wife had developed a fatal brain tumour after using a cellphone (*MWN* M/J92). Lai and Singh's peer-reviewed paper would likely be Exhibit A in any future litigation unless the industry could show that their work was faulty and unrepeatable.

In the wake of Reynard's allegations, CTIA, led by Tom Wheeler, pledged research to rebut all the health claims. Wheeler brought in Dr George Carlo, a Washington-based fixer, to help him put out the fire. The strategy was simple: do as little as possible to resolve the science. After all, there was always the risk that research might prove Reynard right. Lai–Singh's DNA results threatened to expose the hollowness of the CTIA's and Carlo's plan.

Executives at Motorola, at the time the leading wireless company, were worried that Carlo's confidence game would backfire. Dr Quirino Balzano, the company's point man on the growing problem with RF [radiofrequency], wanted actual research. He embarked on a multimillion-dollar research program, which included a project to test Lai–Singh's results. That job went to Dr Joe Roti Roti of Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. Balzano had moved quickly, as the $400,000 contract was signed in December 1994, several months before the Lai–Singh paper appeared in print. Roti Roti was head of cancer biology at the university's radiation oncology centre. He had made a name in the field of hyperthermia—using heat as an adjunct to chemotherapy—and in the process had carried out studies on DNA damage. He had an impressive list of publications, notably in the community's flagship journal *Radiation Research*.[4] On the other hand, he had no prior experience with the genetic effects of microwaves and was new to the comet assay.

Singh versus Olive: Two Comet Assay Variations

The Motorola project was billed as a test of the Lai–Singh experiment, yet the contract stated that Roti Roti would not use Singh's comet assay. Instead, he was to run a variant developed by Dr Peggy Olive[5] of the BC Cancer Research Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Olive had come up with her own version of the assay a few years after Singh, though she had been the first to call it the "comet assay".

Roti Roti was under orders to only attempt the Singh assay if he first found that the Olive assay showed no microwave-induced DNA damage. Motorola lawyers were buying some insurance. Even if the Olive assay showed DNA damage, they would preserve deniability—to use an expression from the Nixon era. That is, they could still maintain that the Lai–Singh experiment had not been replicated. Left unsaid was the general consensus within the research community that the Olive assay was not as sensitive as Singh's and therefore was less likely to pick up a weak effect.

The first results of the Motorola project were presented 18 months later in Victoria, British Columbia, at the 1996 annual meeting of The Bioelectromagnetics Society. Lai and Singh were both in the audience. I was there, too. Over lunch before Roti Roti's talk, Singh was on edge. He'd read the one-paragraph summary of the experiment that was in the conference book of abstracts given to the attendees on registration. Singh suspected that Roti Roti did not know what he was doing. To no one's surprise, Roti Roti announced that he had come up empty. He had tried three different microwave frequencies and, in each case, the DNA had remained intact.

After his presentation, I asked Singh and Lai what they thought. "The Roti Roti data are a mess," Singh replied. Further, with respect to the all-important experimental techniques, Singh made this comment: "We asked him six questions and he did not answer a single one."

A researcher must be sure that the laboratory system being used can indeed detect the effect under study—in this case, DNA damage.

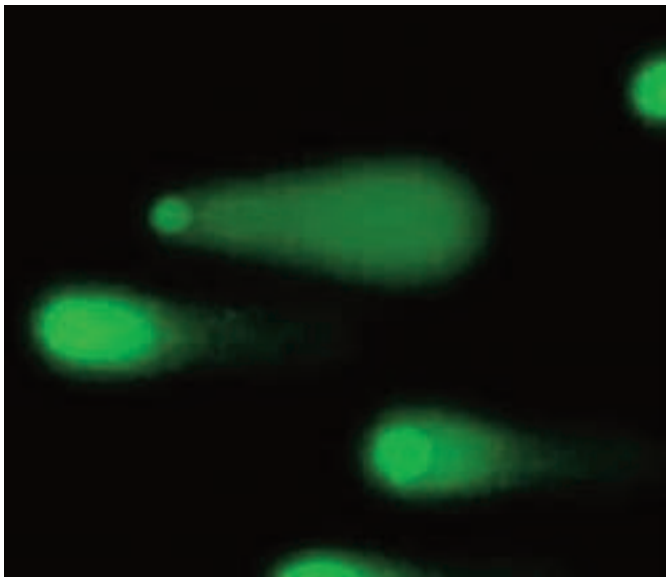
Roti Roti's DNA Paper Sent Out for Peer Review

The following March, Roti Roti submitted his results to *Radiation Research*, where the paper was handled by Dr John Moulder, an associate editor. He sent it out to four reviewers. One of them was Singh.

Singh now had all the experimental details and they reaffirmed his worst fears. The strongest evidence that something was amiss was in the positive controls. These are an essential component of any rigorous experimental design. A researcher must be sure that the laboratory system being used can indeed detect the effect under study—in this case, DNA damage. An agent known to break DNA, typically X-rays or gamma rays, is applied as the positive control. Singh and Olive had each used X-rays when they worked to develop and fine-tune their respective assays.

Roti Roti reported that he could detect DNA damage from gamma rays at unusually low doses—down to 0.3 centigrays (cGy) (or 0.3 rad).

"This is an incredible accomplishment," Singh wrote in the peer review he sent to Moulder. He pointed out that the best that Olive herself had been able to achieve was a sensitivity down to 200 cGy—that is, a dose that was close to *1,000 times higher*.



Normal human dermal fibroblast DNA damage (comet assay, H_2O_2 stimulation) (Image: Bioalternatives.com)

Singh's assay is more sensitive, but he could still only see damage above 3.0–6.0 cGy. Roti Roti was claiming that he could do 10 times better. Singh was offended. He had spent more than a decade perfecting the assay and he did not take well to being told that a novice could walk in and do so much better than everyone else.

Singh had no confidence in Roti Roti's work. He wrote a detailed critique of the paper that ran to two-and-half single-spaced typewritten pages. He wanted *Radiation Research* to reject it.

Peggy Olive Weighs In with Doubts

There were two questions at the bottom of the peer review form: could Singh's comments be shared with the other co-reviewers, and should the editor forward their reviews to him. Singh checked both of the boxes in the affirmative. When he received the other reviews, he felt vindicated.

Peggy Olive was another of the reviewers, and she, like Singh, could not accept that Roti Roti had achieved such a high order of sensitivity. Olive did not mince words: "Obviously, I'm concerned with the statement that my method can detect damage by 0.3 cGy [radiation]," she wrote. "I would love to have [that kind of] sensitivity." The norm, she said, is a dose 150 times higher than what Roti Roti was claiming to have achieved. She added:

"I and several others in the lab have tried many times over the last 10 years to improve sensitivity, but without success. I really doubt that it is possible to get much below 5 cGy even for non-cycling cells. The problem is now all of us (and there are a lot of other labs) that do

not see such exquisite sensitivity with this method could be put in the position of having to explain why."

There was more:

"I find it amusing that Singh's paper caused such a furor when it first appeared. [Motorola subsequently funded Joe's work, since they were concerned about Singh's results] and for a different reason the paper could also be topical [because of the radiation 'positive control' data, not the microwave results]."

Olive made one additional damning point. She echoed Singh's reaction after he'd watched Roti Roti present his preliminary results in Victoria. Roti Roti seemed ignorant of some key experimental details. She had talked to him at a meeting a year earlier about problems that turned up while running such experiments. Olive wrote that he "did not seem to understand my concern".

Nevertheless, Olive took a softer line than Singh on publishing the Roti Roti paper. It could be salvaged, but it would require more lab work and "substantial revision". If he did so and resubmitted the manuscript, she asked to see it again before publication.

Two More Reviews, One Anonymous

There were two other reviewers. One was Brenda Cobb, a researcher at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, who recommended accepting the paper after substantial revisions and further reviews were done. Her concerns were more about Roti Roti's grammar than his science.

Neither Singh nor Lai understood why Moulder had picked her, since this was not her field of expertise. The reason probably was because the US Air Force was the largest funder of microwave research in the United States and had a major stake in how the controversy played out. (Think radar, rather than cellphones.) Moulder may have felt it was a good idea to keep the military in the loop and, in the process, give the Air Force an advance look at the Roti Roti paper.

The name of the fourth peer-reviewer was a mystery. He or she did not want to be identified. Moulder had not included the cover sheet with accept/reject questions, but the comments suggested that the paper should be published. This reviewer said that it was "certainly an important paper" and that it put the earlier controversial findings of Lai and Singh in "new light".

Lai, among others, speculated that the reviewer was Dr Mays Swicord, who was in charge of Motorola's radiation biology research program. There is no hard evidence to support this, other than if it were in fact Swicord then neither he nor Moulder would want to admit it. Seeking a peer review from anyone at Motorola, which had paid for the research and which had an obvious stake in the outcome, would have qualified as scientific misconduct.

Singh Makes a Final Attempt to Stop Publication

In June 1997, just two months after Moulder had sent out the paper for peer review, Singh sent me a one-sentence email: "Looks like John Moulder is going to let Roti Roti publish his RFR/comet assay paper in *Radiation Research*." He did not say how he had found out.

Singh made two last-ditch efforts to stop publication of the paper. In what he called a "personal" and "unofficial" letter to Moulder, he repeated his warning that "it is not possible to resolve the difference between control cells and cell[s] irradiated with 0.6 rad [0.6 cGy]". Then he raised the possibility that some more nefarious forces might be at work. Singh wrote: "I hope this is not the case of scientific fraud and is only a serious mistake." He also sent an email to Motorola's vice president for research (probably Balzano), making the same general arguments. There is no indication that either Moulder or anyone at Motorola ever replied.

The Boeing E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft: the radar in its rotating dome has a range of more than 200 miles (~322 kilometres) for low-flying targets. (Photo: US Air Force)

In early August 1997, the managing editor of *Radiation Research*, Martha Edington, sent a letter to Singh that confirmed his prediction. "Although you recommended that the manuscript be rejected," she wrote, the associate editor (Moulder) and the other reviewers "felt" differently. Roti Roti had made revisions, she noted, and the paper had been accepted.

Roti Roti's DNA results came out in the December 1997 issue of *Radiation Research*.*[6] When Lai took a close look at the published version, he detected only one change from the original manuscript that had been sent to Singh for review: in the acknowledgments section, the authors now thanked Olive for "helpful discussions".

From then on, the Motorola crew took the position that it had tried and failed to repeat the Lai–Singh work: Roti Roti was right, and Lai and Singh were wrong. End of discussion.

Within the year, a six-member group led by Moulder and Robert Malyapa, MD, PhD, the first author of most of Roti Roti's DNA papers, completed a review of the possible link between cellular phones and cancer. The evidence was "weak to nonexistent", they concluded. In the discussion of the DNA work, they reiterated the claim that the sensitivity of the Olive assay was "comparable" to Singh's. The effects that had been observed by Lai and Singh, they argued, were due to confounding of one type or another. The review paper was published in the May 1999 edition of *Radiation Research*.[7]

Seven years later, in 2005, I interviewed Lai and Singh about the industry's latest attack on their work. This time it had come from one of Lai's former collaborators, Dr Bill Guy, who was now working for Carlo. The conversation turned to Roti Roti's breakthrough, the claimed enhanced sensitivity of the Olive assay. "People should be happy," Singh said. "But [the results] have not been replicated. No one has replicated Malyapa's [Roti Roti's] sensitivity."

No one has to this day.

Even before their paper appeared in print, Motorola's PR team was plotting how to lessen its impact. This was spelled out in the now well-known "war gaming" memo.

What to Do with the Peer Reviews?

In early June 1997, after Singh had found out that *Radiation Research* would accept the Roti Roti papers, he and Lai sent me a copy of the peer reviews with a hand-written Post-it note attached from Lai. It said: "Please keep these to yourself. But, I think you should know about these crazy things."

At first, I did not challenge their request to keep the peer reviews confidential. But their outlook changed a few months later when the paper came out with no sign of any changes. Still, peer review was hallowed ground within the scientific community (less so today than back then). I was concerned that their many enemies would blame Singh for the leak and that the backlash would be severe.

Lai and Singh had been the focus of relentless attacks over their DNA work. Even before their paper appeared in print, Motorola's PR team was plotting how to lessen its impact. This was spelled out in the now well-known "war gaming" memo (*MWN*, J/F97).

Soon afterwards, a group funded by the US Air Force included a lengthy attack on Lai and Singh's DNA study in a paper published in *Radiation Research*. In response, Lai wrote to one of the co-authors, Dr Melvin Frei, whom he considered a friend. Lai asked Frei: "Am I such a 'junk' scientist who would report unreliable data and did not carefully carry out experiments? What have I done to provoke such an attack from you?" Even so, Lai closed his letter with: "I will always be your friend." Frei never replied.

Narendra P. Singh, MBBS
(Photo: Scott Manthey, ImageArtsPhoto.com)

Lai and Singh were also jerked around by Carlo and those running his CTIA research program. In the end, their frustrations with Carlo grew so great that they wrote a history of what they called "a very strange experience" and, less politely, "a disgrace to the American research establishment" (*MWN*, M/A99). Carlo threatened to sue them for libel, but soon dropped the case.

The attacks continued year after year. At one scientific meeting, a Motorola consultant approached Lai to offer what he called some "friendly" advice: stop working on DNA breaks because it will "ruin your scientific career and your scientific reputation".

When the Roti Roti papers finally appeared in print, I called Olive to see what she had to say for an article I was preparing for *Microwave News*. At first she declined to be interviewed. "Joe is a friend of mine," she told me, explaining that she would rather not get involved with what she called the "politics" of the issue. Two weeks later, just as we were preparing to go to press, she called back, most likely at Roti Roti's suggestion. I had told him—without letting on that we had the peer reviews—that I was aware that Olive had some reservations about his work. In the interview, Olive was much gentler in her criticisms than in what she had written to Moulder in the peer review. She did concede that she had never been able to get the sensitivity "down that far"—never below 1.0 cGy, she told me, and more realistically not below 5.0 cGy (*MWN*, J/F98).

In the end, Lai and Singh gave me their permission to publish the peer reviews, but I decided not to risk causing them any more grief. After I sent Singh the *Microwave News* article, he wrote back: "I am so happy on your decision not to publish [the] peer review comments." There would be time later, he added—"five or ten years down the road".

Now, close to 20 years later, I am finally setting the record straight.

Postscript on Radiation and DNA Breaks

To this day, Henry Lai keeps a current count of papers on studies of microwave-induced DNA breaks using the comet assay. As of April 2017, he has identified 76 papers, of which 49 (64 per cent) showed DNA breaks and 27 (36 per cent) did not. Eliminating the seven DNA-breaks papers from Roti Roti's lab, the papers showing effects rise to 75 per cent of the total. Eliminating all the papers published in *Radiation Research*, the spread is even wider, with 77 per cent showing effects. (*Radiation Research* published its first paper showing microwave-induced DNA breaks in 2015.[8])

Lai's count does not include the National Toxicology Program's report[9], which showed that, in its $25 million experiment, rats exposed to cellphone radiofrequency radiation developed elevated rates of cancer and DNA breaks in their brain. These findings, which have been presented at scientific meetings, are yet to be published.

* Members of Roti Roti's group had two papers published in December 1997, one covering 2450 MHz[10] and one covering two cellular phone frequency bands, 835.62 MHz and 847.74 MHz.[11] There were suggestions that the papers should be combined. In April 1998, their paper on gamma rays was published.[12] ∞

About the Author and Report:

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This widely acclaimed report was first published in January 1981, and since June 2003 has been available only in a web-based format. An archive of 1981–2003 issues is available at http://www.microwavenews.com.

MicrowaveNews.com focuses on the potential health and environmental impacts of electromagnetic (EM) fields and radiation. It covers the entire non-ionising EM spectrum, with emphasis on mobile phones, power lines, broadcast towers and radar systems plus the medical applications of different types of fields and radiation.

Editor's Note:

This article is edited from Dr Louis Slesin's article posted at MicrowaveNews.com on 27 April 2017 and updated on 24 May 2017. The original version with hyperlinks is available at the web page http://tinyurl.com/yasbjkrs.

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In 2013, biologist Dr. Brian Hooker received a call from a Senior Scientist at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) who led the agency's 2004 study on the Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine and its link to autism.

The scientist, Dr William Thompson, confessed that the CDC had omitted crucial data in their final report that revealed a causal relationship between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Over several months, Dr Hooker records the phone calls made to him by Dr Thompson who provides the confidential data destroyed by his colleagues at the CDC.

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Science News

EXTRAORDINARY HEALING POWERS OF BROWN'S GAS

by Walter Last with George Wiseman
© November 2017

There has been a lot of interest recently in the health benefits of molecular hydrogen[1] (H_2), and rightly so. But this may just be the tip of the iceberg. Brown's Gas (BG) may actually be superior.[2]

BG is the gas from electrolysed water, consisting mainly of two parts of molecular hydrogen, or H_2, and one part of molecular oxygen, or O_2. Other names for it are oxyhydrogen, hydroxy and HHO.[3] Conventional electrolysis separates the two gas components, H_2 and O_2, during production. This is called a *dual-ducted* system. The *single-ducted* gas (BG), in which H_2 and O_2 are *not separated*, was developed by the American inventor Dr William Rhodes who was granted a patent in 1966.

The name Brown's Gas came into use to honour the Australian Dr Yull Brown, who continued to improve and promote the single-ducted system for 30 years. The main uses of BG have been as torch fuel-gas[4] and for improving the fuel efficiency[5] of vehicles and power plants. Dual-ducted gas conforms to the known physical and chemical properties of electrolysed water, but single-ducted gas has some rather unusual properties, as shown here.

George Wiseman (GW) is the leading Brown's Gas researcher in North America. In 1984 he founded Eagle-Research, Inc.[6], but only in more recent years has he become interested in the health benefits of BG. He wrote: "Since 1996, my WaterTorch customers started telling me fantastic tales about curing cancer (melanoma) and many other ailments. (I've since duplicated many of these reports.)"[7]

Eventually, in March 2016, he started breathing BG for several hours each day while working at the computer. After several months, he felt that he had rejuvenated by one year for every month that he inhaled the gas. Here is what GW had to say about his BG health trip:[8]

"I just had a very interesting thing happen to me. I was recently pounding down a steel post with an improvised post-pounder and sprained my shoulder pretty bad. I couldn't lift my arm without severe pain. Then something amazing happened. My shoulder sprain healed in three days! I've never had a sprain heal that fast!

• I'm losing fat and gaining muscle, even without dedicated exercise.

• My eyesight has improved. I've worn glasses since nine years old. I don't wear glasses anymore except when driving.

• Psoriasis is gone; no more thick white peeling skin on elbows, knees and feet. This actually happened within three weeks of my starting to breathe BG.

• Skin is smooth and supple; age wrinkles gradually disappearing.

• Scars (I've had since childhood) seem to be disappearing.

• 'Age spots' are disappearing.

• Neuropathies are gone. I'm grateful to feel my left hand and shins again.

• Hair continues to darken (now salt and pepper instead of straight grey).

• Hair seems to be growing back (thickening and growing on my bald top).

• Tinnitus is still there but barely noticeable occasionally."

GW updated me in October 2017:

"• My warts are gone (hand warts and plantar wart).

• Hair is definitely growing back.

• Constipation is gone.

• Arthritis is gone.

• I still haven't been sick (not even a sniffle) since 2005 (*no* drugs or flu shots).

• I've lost 40 excess pounds (down to 180 from 220).

• Heart murmur is gone."

A 2005 patent[9] contains a long list of diseases and conditions that have been cured or greatly improved by spraying BG on the skin. These include: inflammations and pain, especially as present with various forms of arthritis and arthralgia or joint pain (knee, wrist knuckle), muscle pain or myalgia; spinal disc problems; headaches and migraines; wounds and microbial infections/inflammations; allergic skin reactions; pain removal or alleviation as with bone fractures; sciatica; herpes shingles; toothache; menstruation issues; eye problems including glaucoma and cataracts; Parkinson's disease; myasthaenia; insomnia; poor blood circulation; asthma; gastritis and ulcers; panic disorder; and diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

For a more recent list of diseases and conditions successfully treated with BG, see GW's "Issues healed or mitigated by Brown's Gas".[10]

Electrically Expanded Water

There are countless websites making health claims to sell products based on new inventions. You may wonder what made me especially interested in BG. The main reason is what GW calls *electrically expanded water*, or ExW for short. In 1996, GW discovered that there is a previously unknown component in BG that appears to be the cause of its extraordinary health effects.[11]

Brown's Gas is generated by splitting water between two electrodes. H_2 and O_2 bubble up in the water at their respective electrodes. This is all that one can see with conventional setups. However, with his improved method, GW can see a *third* line of gas[12] developing in the fluid itself, exactly in the middle *between* the electrode plates. The fluid is clear and one can see that there is *no connection* between the bubbles coming off the plates and the line of bubbles coming out of the fluid. For ExW to form, the gas from both electrodes must remain together (single ducted).

ExW is a new discovery that should be of great interest to physicists: by properly researching ExW, they may make a quantum leap in understanding the universe.

GW wrote:[13] "In my personal experience I discovered the 'heavier than air' ExW aspect/component of BG by accident.

"I was grinding on an ER1150 WaterTorch frame and some sparks flew over the water-fill hole, which I had covered with a cloth to prevent impurities from falling in. The hole had been open for over a day and I had no concern about igniting hydrogen, but *something* went *whoosh* as sparks ignited it.

"Note that it didn't go *bang* like a hydrogen explosion would. It went *whoosh* like an instant vacuum had happened and air was rushing in to fill the area.

"I subsequently discovered[14] that if I fill a 2-liter transparent pop [soft drink] bottle with BG, then leave it sit for at least 15 minutes (with the lid off), the remaining mixture is implosive. If you ignite it too soon, the result is *very* explosive because the hydrogen has not had a chance to escape.

"So, the ExW is heavier than air and will tend to stay in the bottle as the hydrogen escapes. If the quality/quantity of the ExW is high enough to support combustion, it will *implode* with no pre-explosion.

"It burns as a 'slow' imploding donut-shaped flame as it moves down inside the bottle; quite interesting to watch.

"Thus we are left with the conclusion that Brown's Gas is more than monatomic and diatomic gas, adding a component of uniquely expanded water. The ExW is a combustible water in a gaseous form that is *not* steam or water vapor."

From volume and weight measurements of the gas, GW concluded that single-ducted BG contains up to 30% ExW.

However, there is a common problem working with BG or with hydrogen on its own: molecular hydrogen in a concentration over 4% is explosive. Therefore, appropriate safeguards are needed when working with BG or hydrogen. Commonly, in clinical settings as in Japan, BG or hydrogen is inhaled at a maximum concentration of 4% hydrogen, and often at 2%.

Darkfield Microscopy Test

GW had darkfield microscopy done while inhaling BG through a nasal cannula. The hydrogen concentration in the inhaled air/BG mixture was 8–9% by volume. Undiluted BG has a hydrogen concentration of 66.6%, and his generator produced 75 litres of BG.

As usual, he felt great and energetic during the inhalation, but something very unusual showed up in the blood picture. There were lots of sparkling lights in the plasma and massive formations of rouleaux—red blood cells (RBCs) stacked together like rolls of coins (figure 1a, left). Within minutes after stopping BG inhalation, the RBCs were again single (figure 1b, right). Two other subjects had the same results with this test.

My explanation for these unusual

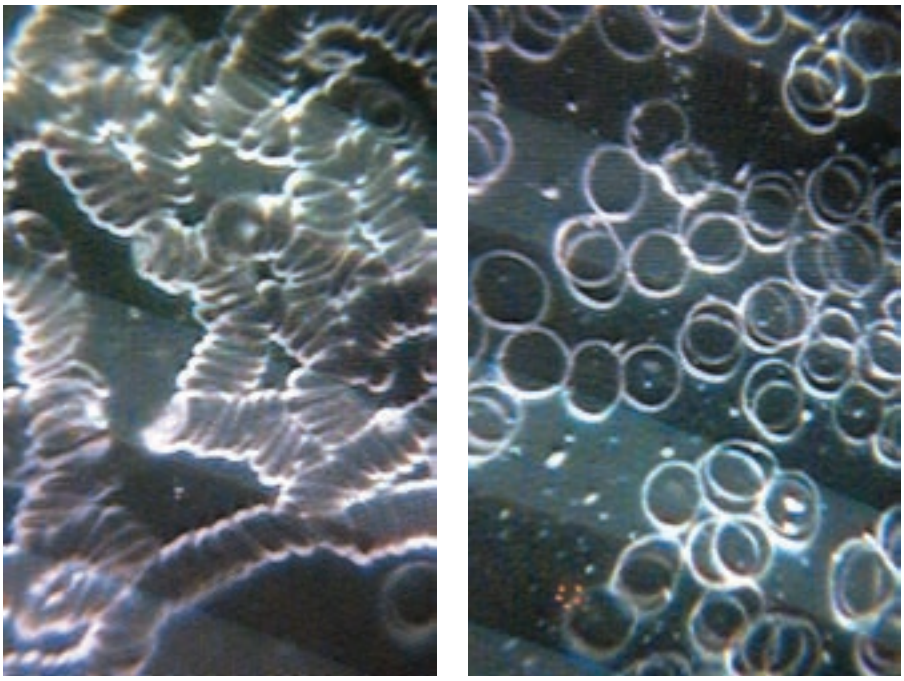

Figure 1a. Image of blood tested during Brown's Gas inhalation.
Figure 1b. Blood tested 10 minutes after BG inhalation was stopped.

darkfield results is as follows. RBCs behave like colloids. They are kept apart by a difference in electric potential between the RBCs and the blood plasma. This difference is called the *zeta potential* (ZP). RBCs have a negative electric charge on the outside. This attracts positive ions, which surround the RBCs and keep them apart from each other. When ZP is high, a colloidal system is stable and colloids or RBCs remain apart; but when the ZP drops, the RBCs move closer together and may coagulate.

Normally, a weak ZP and the resulting rouleaux are caused by diseases and low-energy conditions. However, when inhaling BG there is a high-energy condition. The whole blood—plasma and RBCs—becomes supercharged with bioenergy. This greatly increases the electric potential of the plasma and, to a lesser degree, that of the RBCs. This brings their electric potentials much closer together. Now the ZP is very low, causing massive rouleaux formation.

Topically applied, BG bubbled water has been used to speed up the healing of skin problems such as wounds, infections, …and skin cancers.

Within minutes after BG inhalation stops, the energy excess in the plasma has spread all over the body, and especially to areas of low bioenergy. With this, the ZP of the blood increases again, probably to a higher level than before the inhalation, and the rouleaux dissolve.

With such strong rouleaux formation, one would normally expect a drop in the oxygen saturation of the blood and/or a change in blood pressure and pulse rate. So far, monitoring blood oxygen levels, blood pressure and pulse rate during BG breathing shows no significant change in any parameter. Blood oxygen may even be slightly increased.

The AquaCure™ generator and attachments from Eagle-Research, Inc. (Specifications available at er4u.info/4127?a=5)

Treatment Possibilities

George Wiseman found the combination of breathing Brown's Gas and drinking BG-infused water to be much more effective than doing either one alone.

Four treatment possibilities with BG are: drinking bubbled water, topical application of the bubbled water or the gas, and inhaling BG.

• To charge drinking water with BG, 50–75 L/h is streamed through a bubbler for about 10 minutes per litre of water. The bubbling is much more effective if you use a fish tank air stone to make lots of small bubbles. It is best to drink the water as soon as possible and not keep it till the next day.

• Topically applied, BG bubbled water has been used to speed up the healing of skin problems such as wounds, infections, inflammations, rashes and skin cancers. It is best to keep the affected area wet or moist for some time with soaked cotton cloth or taped-on cotton balls. Change the water of the dressing frequently. You can also have a bath or footbath with BG bubbling through. BG bubbled water is used in Japanese spas.

The benefits of water bubbled with BG not only apply to our health but also to the wellbeing of plants and fish.[15] Plants that received BG water grew three to 10 times more quickly (better results with hydroponics) than plants growing with untreated water, and they looked very healthy. Even fish grew two to three times faster when breathing only BG bubbled water.

• BG gas can be applied directly to the skin. Direct gas application has been used for carpal tunnel syndrome, muscle cramps, arthritis, gout, etc. Wounds heal much more quickly than they normally would. Carpal tunnel syndrome was found to be completely eliminated in one application. To treat hands, put on gloves and feed the gas into the gloves. Even plastic bags may be put over an arm or a leg.

Important note: Brown's Gas is an

explosive mixture. You must have *no* ignition sources nearby. Even static electricity can ignite BG. GW is aware of two explosions with bag treatment, one caused by a spark from a doorknob and the other by the static electricity in a carpet. These explosions went outwards and did not hurt these individuals. Nevertheless, I believe this is an unnecessary risk, and topically applied water is a safer option. Alternatively, use BG with a hydrogen concentration below 4% to fill the bags.

• Inhaling BG is the most effective treatment for general health improvement. This is usually done with a nasal cannula while sitting quietly for some time, such as when working at the computer, watching TV or reading a book. You may also bubble through a water-filled bottle with the opening close to the nose. Start with just a few minutes and gradually increase treatment time. If used in the evening, this may initially interfere with sleep.

To keep the hydrogen concentration of the inhaled gas below 4%, the BG volume should be adjusted to about 18 to 20 litres. That should not be necessary when inhaling from a bottle. However, GW is still inhaling BG at 8–9% with a cannula for several hours on most days. The BG should be bubbled through water, and the hose with the nasal cannula attached to the outlet of the bubbler. When bubbling through a bottle, no outlet pipe is needed. It's a good idea to drink the bubbled water at the end of the session.

The Orient has embraced BG for health technology. In Japan, people can just walk off the street into a shop or a clinic to inhale hydrogen[16]; the same in Taiwan. Actually, they do not inhale just hydrogen but, rather, Brown's Gas.

Epoch Energy Technology Corporation in Taiwan now produces a Brown's Gas generator for health-related businesses.[17]

A similar Brown's Gas generator for medical treatments has been developed in Shanghai, China.[18]

Increasingly, research into the health benefits of hydrogen gas inhalation is actually being conducted with Brown's Gas. ∞

About the Authors:

• Walter Last is a retired biochemist, research chemist, nutritionist and natural therapist living in Australia. His health books are available from http://tinyurl.com/4xkdgcu. He is a long-standing contributor to NEXUS Magazine; his most recent article, "Is Invasive Cancer a Hyphal Fungus?", was published in 23/02 in 2016.

For more information, articles and advice, visit Walter Last's website www.health-science-spirit.com.

• George Wiseman is the founder and director of the US organisation Eagle-Research, Inc., created in 1984 to develop and distribute practical energy-saving methods and devices. His 2006 article, "Brown's Gas Could Change the World", was published in NEXUS 13/06. His presentation on Brown's Gas at the 2007 NEXUS Conference is available on DVD (see http://tinyurl.com/y77uqlnt).

For more information on Brown's Gas and the AquaCure generator as well as fuel savers and free energy, visit www.eagle-research.com.

The Oxy-Hydrogen for Health & Beauty® generator from Epoch Energy Technology Corp. (Photo: epoch.en.taiwantrade.com)

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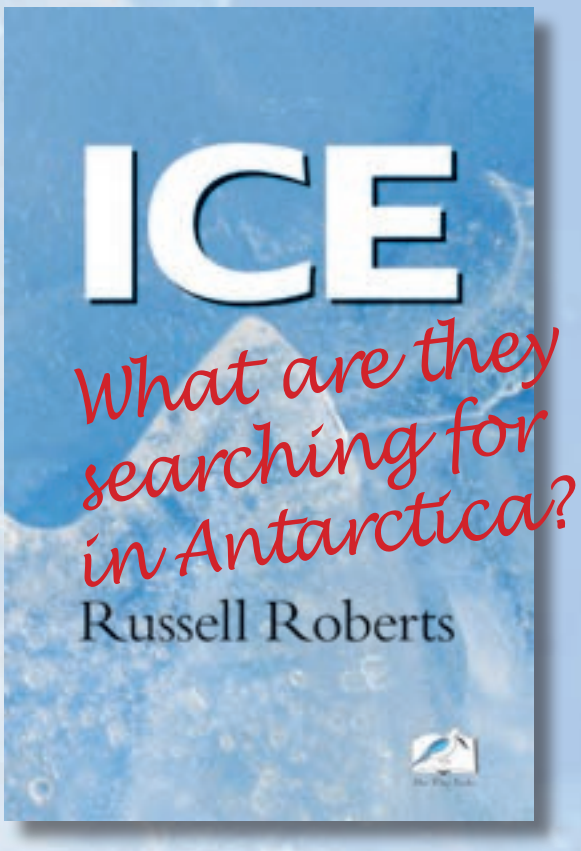

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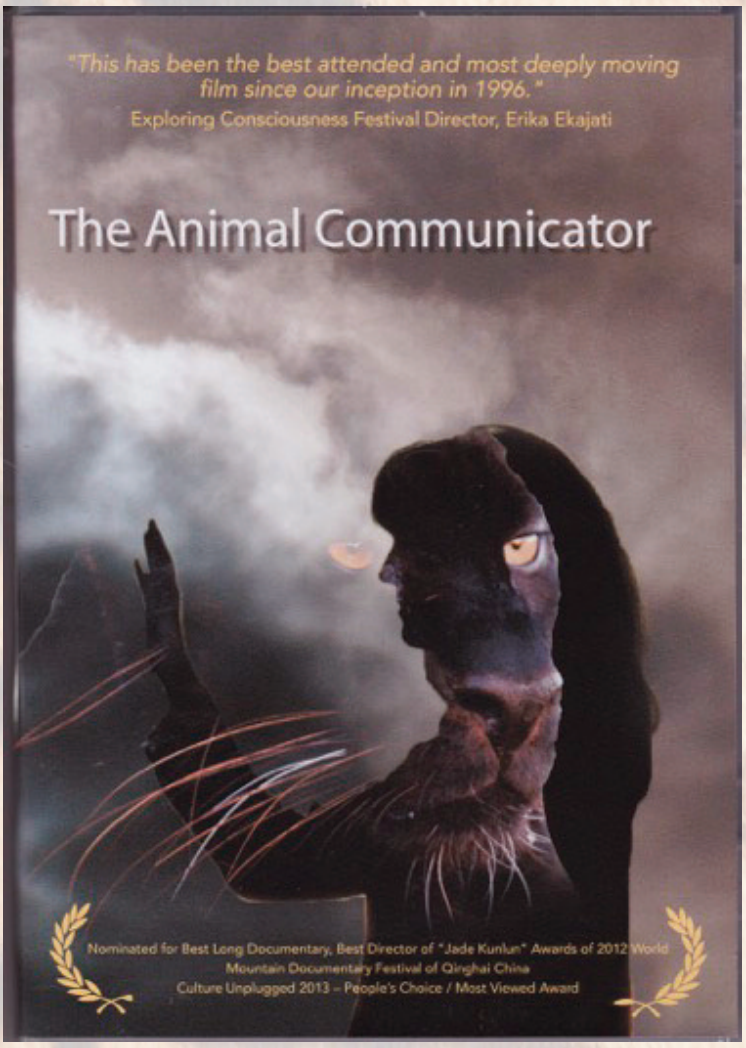
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The Giants of Ancient Egypt

Historical records and discoveries of enormous skeletal remains and artefacts provide evidence that giants existed in antiquity.

by Hugh Newman © October 2017

The Lost Legacy of the Pharaohs

A recently published article reveals that the Third Dynasty pharaoh Sa-Nakht, whose remains were excavated from a tomb near Beit Khallaf in Upper Egypt in 1901, was a so-called "giant" ("Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh May Be the 1st Known 'Giant'", LiveScience, 4 August 2017[1]). He was 5 inches [12.7 centimetres] taller than the robust Ramesses II, and 8 inches [20.3 cm] taller than the average-sized man of that time. Although he was only 6 foot 1.6 inches [1.9 metres] tall, this report caused a media sensation. But please note that I am the same height as this "giant"!

Throughout Egypt's past there have been numerous examples of much taller giants reported, excavated and depicted in art, and mummies have been hidden from the public. My co-author Jim Vieira and I have uncovered accounts of giants ranging in height between 7 and 16 feet [~2.13 and 4.88 m].

Painstaking research of archaeological records, archaic texts and newspapers as well as analyses of hieroglyphs and representations in Egyptian art have started to shed some light on this phenomenon.

The whole area of the Middle East has strong legends of giant humans. There are also references in the Bible, such as Moses fleeing from Egypt and being attacked by the mighty Canaanites in the regions we know today as Israel and Lebanon. Newspaper accounts confirm the reality of these tribes. Skeletons and bones of enormous

Figure 1. Massive limestone casing blocks at the base of the Great Pyramid, photographed in 1909, with joints indicated by charcoal lines. In 832 AD, the entire pyramid was still covered with casing blocks.

proportions have been unearthed in these Bible lands and in other parts of the Middle East and Africa.

The unfolding discoveries of giant skeletons reported in America and other parts of the world have revealed a lost legacy of a race of colossi, who are now slowly being included in historical and archaeological records. Egypt is no exception, and Jim Vieira and I have been collecting accounts for the last few years that are revealed for the first time in this article.

Did Giants Build the Great Pyramid?

The elite rulers of prehistoric Khemit (Egypt) were always regarded as superhumans: some were said to have elongated skulls, others were thought to be semi-spiritual beings, and many were described as giants.

A legend recounts that the Giza pyramids may have been built by a race of giants. It was shared in a lecture, "Atlantis and the Gods of Antiquity", by the occultist and Freemason Manly P. Hall, which was probably recorded in the 1980s and was put out on YouTube by giantologist Kristan T. Harris:[2]

"…Way back in the days of the glory of Baghdad, the great Sultan…the follower and descendant of the great Al-Rashid of *Arabian Nights*, the Sultan Al-Rashid Al-Ma'mūn, decided to open the Great Pyramid. He had been told that it was built by giants, who were called the Sheddai—superhuman beings—and that within that pyramid and those pyramids they had stored a great treasure beyond the knowledge of man."[3]

It is true that, in 832 AD, Al-Ma'mūn travelled to Egypt and was the first "excavator" of the Great Pyramid at a time when it was completely encased in white limestone blocks (see photo, figure 1). Who the Sheddai were is another mystery, but the name could be an alternative one for the Shemsu Hor, the Followers of Horus. It could also refer to Shaddād bin 'Ad, the king of 'Ad, believed to be the king of the lost Arabian city of Iram of the Pillars, an account of which is mentioned in Sura 89 of the Qur'an. He is sometimes identified as a giant.

Megalithic Construction in Egypt

The *Akhbār al-zamān* (c. 900–1100 AD), also called *The Book of Wonders*, is an Arabian compilation of mediaeval lore about Egypt and the world before and after the Great Flood.[4]

The translation says that Naqrāūs was the "first to reign in Egypt before the Flood" and "was a giant" who, with his giant companions, "built monuments, erected high towers, and executed the wonderful works". Harjit, another pre-Flood king, is said to have "built the first of the pyramids of Dahshur".

According to the text, the city of Memphis was created by a group of giants who worked for another giant, Miṣraīm, the first post-Flood king. Qofṭarīm was "a great giant" who "placed secrets in the pyramids of Dahshur and other pyramids, to imitate what had been done of old" and "founded the city of Dendera". Further, the text describes yet another colossus: "Adīm was a giant, with insurmountable strength, and the greatest of men. He ordered the quarrying of rocks and their transportation to build pyramids, as had been done in former times."

The text claims that the people of 'Ad were giants, so the previously mentioned Shaddād (or Shaddāt) was likely to have been one. It is said that "Shaddāt built the monuments of Dahshur with the stones that had been carved in the time of his father". Dahshur is the site of the Red Pyramid and the Bent Pyramid, constructed during the reign of the Fourth Dynasty pharaoh Sneferu (c. 2613–2589 BC).

So what do we make of these stories? It does seem that Manly P. Hall was aware of this text and attempted to summarise it in his lecture. In my opinion, all ancient "lore" is worth acknowledging: many of these traditions were relied on to carry knowledge and wisdom through the generations.

Were the "Followers of Horus" Giants?

The Followers (or the Disciples) of Horus, who were said to have created the primordial mound at Giza long before the pharaohs built the pyramids, were sometimes recorded as giants. Early excavations in Egypt point to this, as noted by Professor Walter B. Emery (1903–1971):

Figure 2. An early excavation at Saqqara showing a typical burial. (Courtesy of the Egypt Exploration Society)

"Towards the end of the IV millennium B.C. the people known as the Disciples of Horus appear as a highly dominant aristocracy that governed entire Egypt. The theory of the existence of this race is supported by the discovery in the pre-dynastic tombs, in the northern part of Higher Egypt, of the anatomical remains of individuals with bigger skulls and builds than the native population, with so much difference to exclude any hypothetical common racial strain."[5]

Professor Emery was the Egyptologist who excavated Saqqara (figure 2) in the 1930s and discovered Predynastic remains there. These had dolichocephalous skulls, larger than those of the local ethnic group, with fair hair, and had a taller, heavier build. He concluded that these people were not indigenous to Egypt, but had performed important sacerdotal and governmental roles, keeping their distance from ordinary people and mixing only with the aristocratic classes. He thought they were part of the Shemsu Hor, "the Disciples [or Followers] of Horus".[6]

Researcher and author Freddy Silva has uncovered a tantalising description of these so-called "giant gods" in the Temple of Edfu's inscribed building texts:

"Advice to initiates in the temple of Edfu offers a glimpse as to what the builder gods may have looked like, since the initiates were instructed to 'stand up with the Ahau' ('Gods who stand up') who measured 9 cubits tall. That's approximately 15 feet or 4.6 meters!"[7]

Large Artefacts of the First Dynasty

Menes (or Narmer), c. 3150 BC, also remembered as "the Scorpion King", is credited with founding Egypt's First Dynasty and uniting Upper and Lower Egypt. There is no record of his stature, but he is depicted on the famous Narmer Palette, c. 3100 BC, as being very tall (figure 3). Oversized artefacts were created during his reign, and some of these are preserved in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England.

In July 2017 I visited the Ashmolean to investigate the mysterious Scottish carved stone spheres, but I also took some time to look at the Ancient Egypt exhibition. To my surprise, it includes an obviously huge artefact from the First Dynasty and the statue of a giant pharaoh from the Second Dynasty, thought to have been over 8 feet [2.44 m] tall (see next section).

A strange object in the central display cabinet caught my eye, as it clearly did not look Egyptian. The shape is exactly the same as an Australian boomerang, and it is described as a "throwing stick". The Australian–Egyptian connection is a fascinating area of research, and I have visited the Gosford hieroglyphs north of Sydney that may indicate early contact between these cultures.

In the same glass case are some beautifully carved flint knives—one so large that I did not notice it at first, as it takes up nearly the full width of the cabinet. It is at least 10 times bigger than the others. While it does look like

Figure 3. The Narmer Palette, c. 3100 BC, depicts the giant king defeating his enemies. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

Figure 4. Oversized flint knife, said to be "probably ceremonial", on display at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, England. (Photos by Hugh Newman)

it had been used as a knife, the information panel says that it was "probably ceremonial" because this is the only way to explain its massiveness (figure 4). This large flint knife was discovered in Hierakonpolis, underneath the foundations of a later temple from the First Dynasty. Why it had been buried deliberately and hidden so thoroughly is unknown—but perhaps this was a ceremonial way to honour the gods who were quite possibly giants.

In the opposite display case in the corner of the Ancient Egypt room, some oversized mace-heads that were once in the possession of the legendary Scorpion King caught my attention (figure 5). Again, these are described as "ceremonial"—but could they have been the correct size, designed for giant kings?

Figure 5. Limestone mace-heads, oversized versions of the small stone weapons that were typical grave goods during the Predynastic period. They became symbols of the Egyptian elite by 3100 BC. (Photos by Hugh Newman)

The Second Dynasty Giant King

King Khasekhemwy (also spelled Khasekhemui and Khasekhem), c. 2690 BC, was the final ruler of Egypt's Second Dynasty. Based near Abydos, he was involved in the construction of the Predynastic capital Hierakonpolis. This is the same place where the previously mentioned gigantic knife was discovered. Khasekhemwy was buried in the necropolis at Umm el-Qa'ab in what was once described as the earliest stone structure in Egypt.[8] This large limestone tomb is not sophisticated in any way, and when Professor Robert Temple investigated the site in 2001 he was amazed at the primitive quality of the construction—especially compared to the step pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara, which has been dated to the start of the Third Dynasty, just a few years later. It is thought that Djoser "buried" Khasekhemwy at this site before he moved north to the area of Saqqara.[9] Khasekhemwy's skeleton has never been found, which suggests it was looted long before the tomb was excavated.

This Second Dynasty king, who is understood to have had other names such as Sesokhris, is unique in Egyptian history in that he had the symbols of both Horus and Set on his serekh (royal crest). Some Egyptologists consider that this was an attempt to unify the two factions, but Set was dropped from the serekh permanently after his death. He is the earliest known Egyptian king to have had statues of himself created.[10]

However, the most startling thing about this pharaoh is that he was something of a giant. Flinders Petrie, who first excavated the site, found evidence from the early third century BC that this king was "noted for his height of 5 cubits 3 palms, or slightly over 8 feet [2.4 m]"[11], if the "short" cubit of 17.4 inches [44.2 cm] is used. Petrie's source was Manetho, thought to have been an Egyptian priest of the Ptolemaic era and the author of the *Aegyptiaca* ("History of Egypt") at the request of Ptolemy II Philadelphus.[12] If we use the "royal" cubit instead, then this giant's height increases to 14 feet 7 inches [~4.5 m]. Considering that Khasekhemwy was a king, perhaps the royal cubit is the more applicable measure, but this kind of stature is well outside the normal range for humans. Therefore, although this is intriguing and correlates with other accounts,

Figure 6. The start of the Abydos King List of the Nineteenth Dynasty New Kingdom, featuring Seti I (left) and his son Ramesses II. Found on a wall of the Temple of Seti I at Abydos, it lists 76 kings of ancient Egypt but omits the names of many earlier pharaohs such as Khasekhemwy. (Image: Wikimedia Commons)

the more conservative height range of 8 feet to 8 feet 6 inches [~2.4 to 2.6 m] is much more likely. A statue of Khasekhemwy is on display at the Ashmolean Museum, but no details are provided as to how tall he was.

Khasekhemwy is said to have ruled for 48 years and to have reunited Upper and Lower Egypt after a time of civil war. Perhaps he was feared, as a king of this stature must have been very influential and towered over his enemies and contemporaries. It is also important to note that the earliest inscriptional evidence of an Egyptian king at the site of Byblos in today's Lebanon belongs to the reign of Khasekhemwy.

Because Khasekhemwy was based near Abydos and the sunken temple called the Osirion, can we consider that he was involved in the superior construction of this temple? It might explain how such massive blocks could have been moved into place, but the primitive stonework of his reign is inconsistent with this.

Interestingly, the famous Abydos King List of Egypt's Nineteenth Dynasty New Kingdom is carved on the Temple of Seti I at Abydos, and on it is a larger-than-life Seti represented as about eight feet tall (figure 6). In a strange twist, Khasekhemwy was omitted from the final list, as were certain other early notable kings who were apparently considered to be illegitimate.

Depiction of a Giant at Saqqara

Egypt's Third Dynasty saw the step pyramid built, along with numerous other temples, in the Saqqara complex. Djoser, who buried the giant pharaoh Khasekhemwy (and may have been his son), was the ruler of Saqqara during its construction. Within the complex is a painting of a giant who clearly appears to have an elongated skull. It was photographed with the now-shamed Egyptologist Dr Zahi Hawass examining it (figure 7). He does not look too pleased! As noted earlier, Emery excavated the remains of some powerful individuals at Saqqara "with bigger skulls and builds than the native population".

Giants of the Temple of Isis

This unusual story was reported in multiple newspapers in 1895 and 1896, but we feature the earliest and most complete version. This account was published on 16 November 1895 in the *Arizona Silver Belt* newspaper with the headline "Prehistoric Egyptian Giants":

"In 1881, when Prof. Timmerman was engaged in exploring the ruins of an ancient temple of Isis on the banks of the Nile, sixteen miles below Najar Djfard, he opened a row of tombs in which some prehistoric race of giants had been buried. The smallest skeleton out of some sixty odd which were examined during the time Timmerman was excavating at Najar Djfard measured seven feet and eight inches [~2.4 m] in length and the

Figure 7. An archaeologist shows Egyptologist Dr Zahi Hawass (left) a representation of a possible giant at Saqqara in 2007. (Courtesy of AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

largest eleven feet and one inch [~3.4 m]. Memorial tablets were discovered in great numbers, but there was no record that even hinted that they were in the memory of men of extraordinary size. It is believed that the tombs date back to the year 1043 BC."

There is no more information given in this report, but the item was repeated in the *Arizona Weekly Citizen* of 1 February 1896 and several other newspapers.

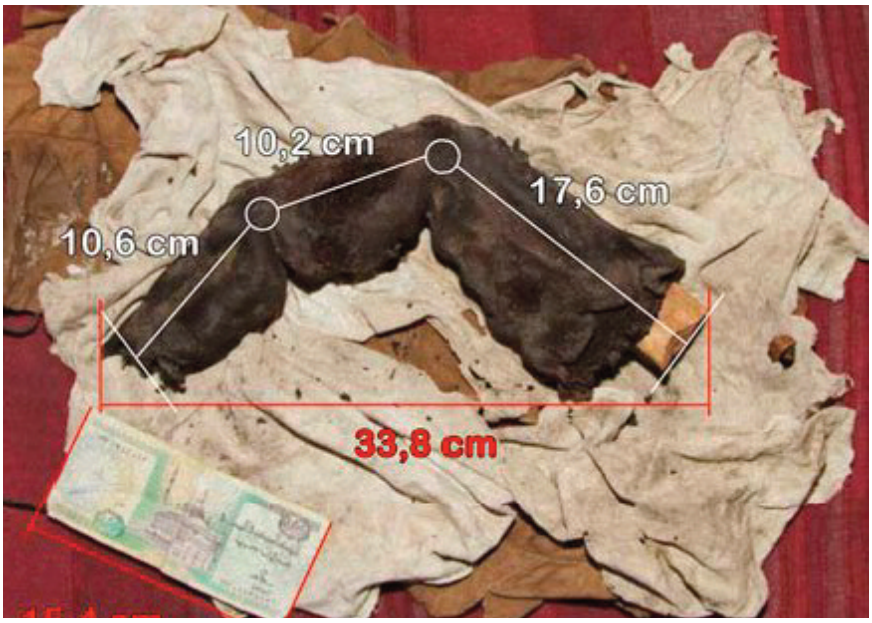

Figure 8. Photograph of the mummified giant finger with measurements included. (Courtesy of Gregor Spörri)

A Mummified Giant Finger

According to the German newspaper *Bild*, a Swiss nightclub owner named Gregor Spörri took several photographs of a mummified giant finger during his visit to Egypt in 1988 (figures 8, 9).[13] The owner was a farmer and retired grave robber by the name of Nagib, who was based in the district of Bîr Hooker near Sadat City, which is about 100 kilometres northwest of Cairo.

The finger is nearly 14 inches [35.6 cm] long, and if it is genuine it belonged to someone estimated to have been between 15 and 16 feet [~4.6 and 4.9 m] tall (or someone with oversized hands!). However, the discovery was only revealed on 9 March 2012, 24 years later, and since then there has been no official rebuff of the discovery.

Nagib told Spörri that the finger had been found about 150 years previously and had been kept in the family, who in the 1960s even went to the trouble of having it X-rayed to confirm its authenticity. Spörri had to pay $300 to see the mummified finger and take pictures of it.

"…Spörri observed the finger in detail and was able to determine that what he was holding was old, organic and humanoid. The finger looked like it had been cut off with anatomical precision, and in some places was crumbled. The leathery skin was ripped in places and the skin was a few millimeters thick. Between the dried skinfolds he could see remains of fungus and the nail was loose. The surface of the skin was damaged in some places, as if mice had gnawed on it. The bone felt woody…

Figure 9. More photographs of the finger, with an X-ray taken in the 1960s. (Courtesy of Gregor Spörri)

"Nagib refused to tell Spörri where the finger was found but made allusions to a hidden room in the basement of the Great Pyramid where huge, empty graves are located. Nagib made it clear that the relic was not for sale as it was too important for Nagib's family. Before he returned to his hotel, Spörri took a number of photos where he put a banknote next to the finger in order to indicate the size."[14]

Nineteen years later, Spörri went back to Egypt to find Nagib but no one knew where he was. A DNA sample from the finger would have been useful to obtain, but the X-ray, the detailed photographs and Spörri's thorough description do hint that this is a genuine mummified finger. The X-ray and photographs were examined by professionals, and they could see no evidence of fakery.

Cemetery Dig Reveals Seven-Foot Skeleton

For nearly 30 years, archaeologists from Brigham Young University (BYU), Utah, have been excavating the Fag el-Gamous ("Way of the Water Buffalo") cemetery and a nearby pyramid on the edge of the Fayoum Depression. Many of the skeletons they have discovered date to the time when the Roman and Byzantine empires ruled Egypt from the first century BC to the seventh century AD. The pyramid, however, may date to about 2500 BC, when the Giza pyramids were supposedly being constructed.

"We are fairly certain we have over a million burials within this cemetery. It's large, and it's dense," said Dr

Figure 10. A skeleton found at Fag el-Gamous. (Courtesy of BYU)

Kerry Muhlestein, the project's director and an associate professor at BYU's Department of Ancient Scripture in a November 2014 presentation at the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities Scholars Colloquium in Toronto, Canada.[15] However, it is now thought that there are more likely to be just tens of thousands of graves (see an example of a burial in figure 10).

One discovery that was never officially published was that of a mummy more than seven feet [~2.1 m] tall. "We once found a male who was over 7 feet tall who was far too tall to fit into the shaft, so they bent him in half and tossed him in," said Dr Muhlestein.[16]

This large number of burials next to such a small settlement has raised many questions, especially because the nearby pyramid is at least 2,500 years older than the cemetery, contemporary with Saqqara and the earliest phases of the Great Pyramid's construction. The huge number of bodies that ended up at the Fag el-Gamous cemetery remains a mystery. Were the bodies brought in from other areas because this was a sanctified zone? Or is there another reason? Either way, soon after the publication of this story the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities told the archaeologists to halt their excavations and revoked their licence. The Ministry responded to requests for information from the *Salt Lake Tribune*, saying that it will suspend any archaeological project if its director neglects to "immediately" notify it of any new discoveries, as stipulated in the rules.[17] Were the excavations halted because the BYU archaeologists were revealing giants of ancient Egypt to the world?

There was no indication given as to whether the giant mummy had any signs of gigantism, but the find gives yet more credence to the idea that giants once lived and thrived in ancient Egypt—be they pharaohs with elaborate burials, or individuals folded and thrown down holes in the desert.

Giants in Egyptian Art

In figure 11 we can see various examples of Egyptian inscriptions and art that appear to represent giants next to people of smaller stature. Some caught my attention, while others could simply be adults with children or art produced for self-glorification.

The researcher Muhammad Abdo[18] compiled most of these images, but please take a look for yourself: it is difficult to tell if these are realistic depictions or artistic impressions, but they're worth noting anyway.

Enormous Coffins and Sarcophagi

According to some researchers, huge coffins are proof of giants in Egypt. I have seen a few in my travels, but it simply could be the case that they were made bigger than required to impress others or to make it clear to the gods in the afterlife that their occupants were of royal stock (figure 12). Some examples, however, pose a few

Figure 11. Various depictions of giants in Egyptian art collected by Muhammad Abdo. (Courtesy of Muhammad Abdo)

Figure 12. Three massive coffins from ancient Egypt, photographed with people of smaller stature for comparison. (Courtesy of Muhammad Abdo)

awkward questions. The Serapeum of Saqqara comprises 25 massive granite and diorite coffins weighing up to 70 tons each, and mummified Apis bulls were sealed within them as part of an ancient cult. Only one bull was ever found, which led to speculation that the other sarcophagi were once used for giant humans. A huge sarcophagus is located under the Giza Plateau in what is called the Osiris Shaft. It is partly submerged, is rarely visited or photographed, and is deep beneath the stone causeway of the so-called Pyramid of Khafre.

The alabaster sarcophagus of Seti I is 9 feet 4 inches [~2.85 m] in length and is currently housed in Sir John Soane's Museum in London (see illustration, figure 13). Seti I is the larger-than-life figure depicted on the Abydos King List (figure 6), and with such a massive sarcophagus you could conclude that he must have been a very tall pharaoh. However, his mummy has also been discovered and it measures just 5 feet 7 inches [1.7 m] in length.

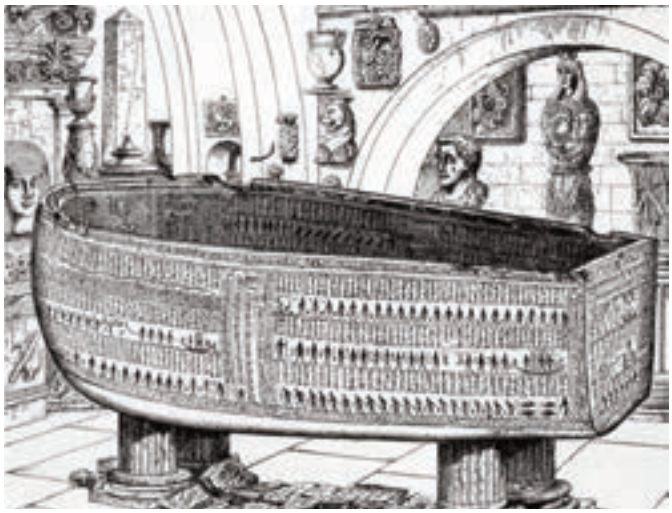

Figure 13. Illustration of the sarcophagus of Seti I, from Sir E. A. Wallis Budge, *An Account of the Sarcophagus of Seti I, King of Egypt, B.C. 1370*, The Museum, London, 1908

So even though there are giant coffins and artistic impressions of very tall Egyptians, this does not mean that they represent actual human giants.

Gigantism and Ingenuity

We began our survey with, well, the smallest giant discovered in ancient Egypt, who just happens to match my height of 6 foot 1.5 inches. However, Egyptologist Michael Habicht of the University of Zurich and his colleagues concluded after reanalysing the alleged skull and bones of the pharaoh that Sa-Nakht probably suffered from gigantism. The long bones show evidence of "exuberant growth", which are "clear signs of gigantism".[19] So this is the real reason why Sa-Nakht was labelled a "giant". According to a report about the published study of August 2017: "In fact, he probably wouldn't have been tall enough to make a basketball team today—a typical NBA center stands in the 7-foot [~2.1-m] range!"[20] The historical record has very few accounts of gigantism, so this study is interesting in and of itself. Most accounts seem to indicate a normal human skeletal frame without signs of any pituitary irregularity.

The discoveries presented in this article build the case for the existence of giants in ancient Egypt and around the world—and the more we explore the records of each country, the more examples we find. Some of those included in this article are not particularly tall, but they do strengthen the idea that those who were born with giant genes were honoured and respected and were part of the royal bloodlines of the very early rulers of ancient Egypt. These discoveries may even shed light on how such large stones were quarried and lifted into place—as only giants, ingenious architects or engineers possessing very advanced technologies could have undertaken such gargantuan tasks. ∞

About the Author:

Hugh Newman is a world explorer and megalithomaniac. He is the author of *Stone Circles* (2017) and *Earth Grids: The Secret Pattern of Gaia's Sacred Sites* (2008), and co-author with Jim Vieira of *Giants on Record: America's Hidden History…* (2015; see article and review in NEXUS 23/02). He gave a Skype talk about Giants at the 2016 NEXUS Conference (see http://tinyurl.com/y8dz7tlf).

Newman has been a regular guest on the History

Continued on page 83

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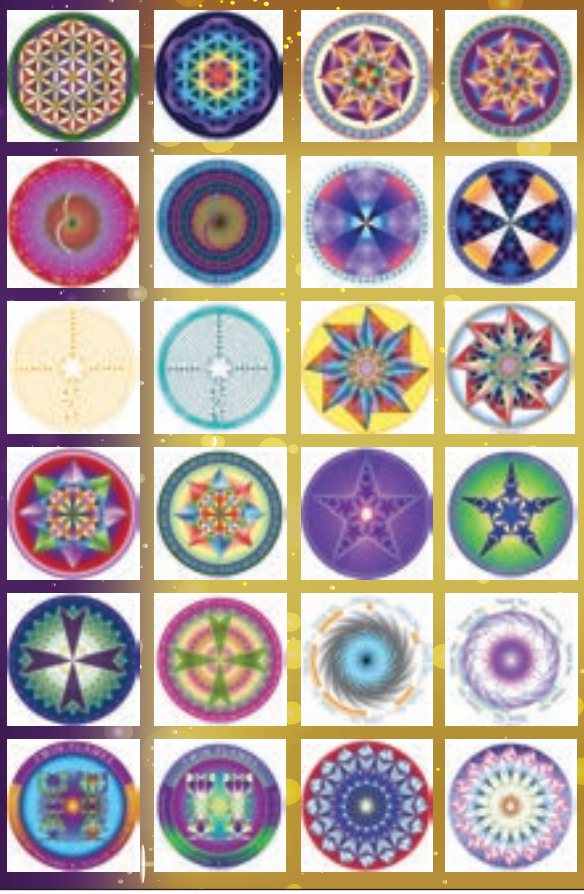

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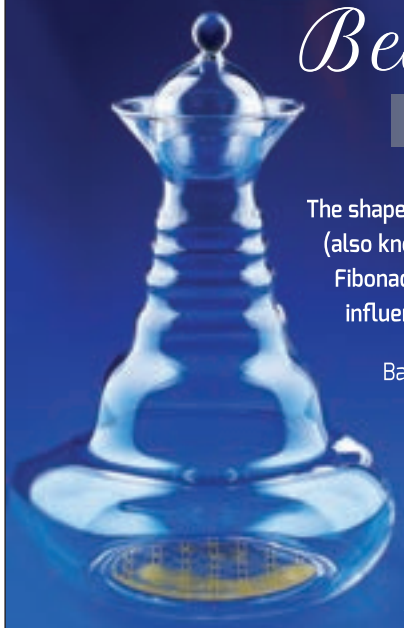

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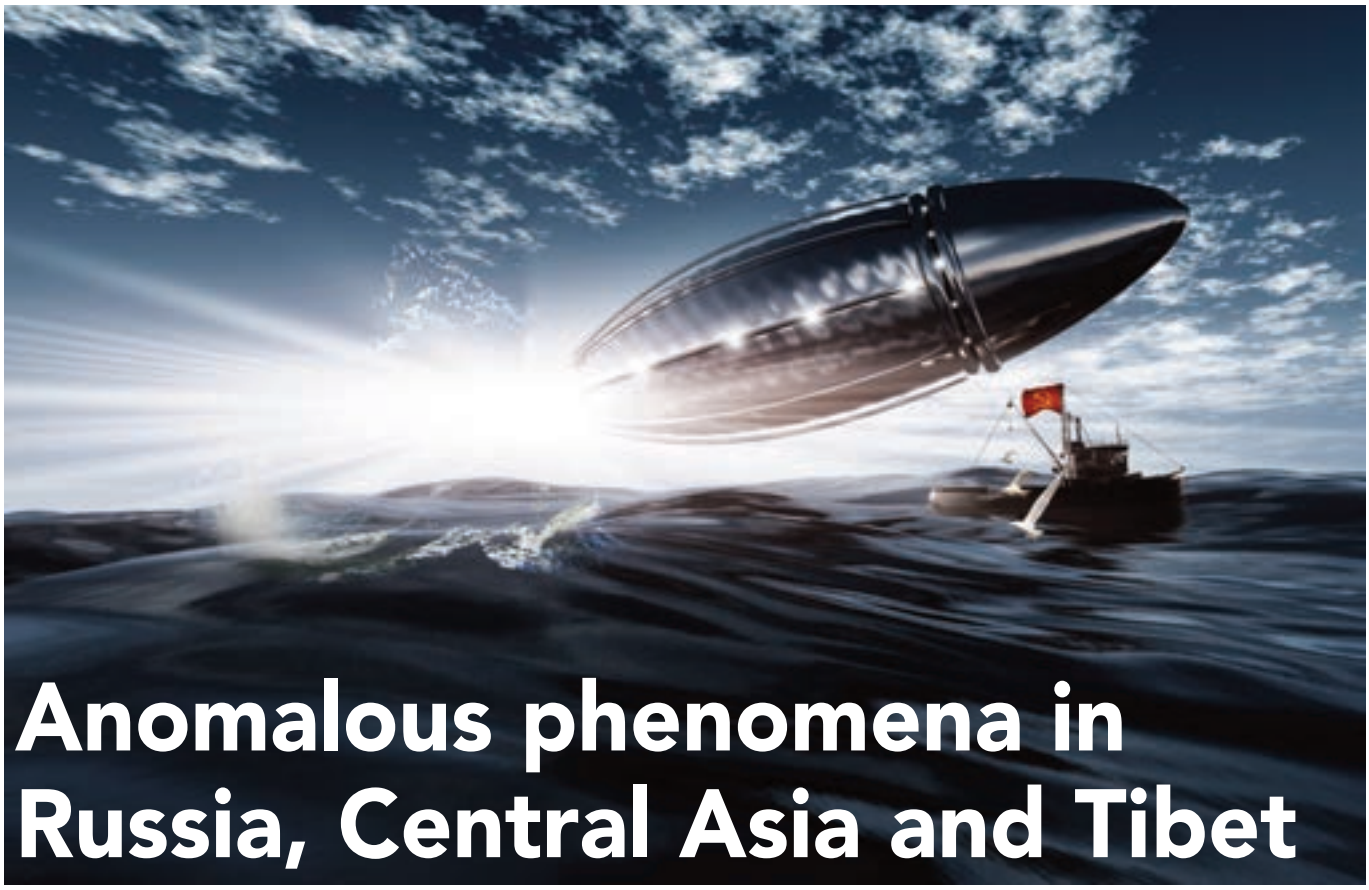


Anomalous phenomena in Russia, Central Asia and Tibet

Image: Daniel Del Toro

Silver-suited giant amphibians, pulsating spheres and submersible craft have been reported by military and civilian eyewitnesses.

by Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle © October 2017

Mysteries of Kyrgyzstan and Georgia

Boris Pavlovich Grabovsky was a Soviet engineer who invented the first fully electronic TV transmitting tube. He also wrote *Kosmicheskiy Biofactor* ("Space Biofactor"). In the late 1930s, he conducted an intriguing interview with a reluctant witness to one episode of our planet's mysterious past.

The interviewee and his friends had explored a cave near Issyk-Kul, a lake located in northeastern Kyrgyzstan. Inside the cave, the men found three human skeletons, each more than three metres long. The skeletons were adorned with silver decorations that looked like bats. The men became very scared and kept silent about their discovery for years. They melted down the decorations except for one small piece. Soviet scientists who studied the piece said they could not determine its age.

Issyk-Kul, meaning "warm lake" in the Turkic languages of Central Asia, is one of the largest alpine lakes in the world. The Trans-Ili Alatau and Terskey Alatau mountains stretch along the northern shore of the deep-water lake. South of the lake, two ranges of the Tian Shan, separated by the Naryn Valley, extend in the same direction.

From the days of antiquity, the shores of the lake and its waters have held many secrets. There are caves of Stone Age people, burial mounds of ancient nomads and Scythian kings, open-air temples, strange rock drawings,

The northern shore of Issyk-Kul (Photo: Thomas Depenbusch, flickr.com)

ruins of long-forgotten cities and remnants of lost civilisations buried underwater. Indeed, a Kyrgyz legend mentions the existence of a submerged city, whose ruler was a creature with "long asinine ears".

The first mention from Eurasia of giant remains similar to those found near Issyk-Kul dates to the early 1900s. Several boys in Georgia (then part of the Russian Empire) discovered a mountain cave which was allegedly full of humanoid skeletons. Each skeleton was about three metres in length. To get to the cave, the boys had to dive into a lake. Georgian-American writer George Papashvily and his wife, Helen Waite Papashvily, recount the incident in their 1945 book *Anything Can Happen*.

Silvery Swimmers in Lake Baikal, Siberia

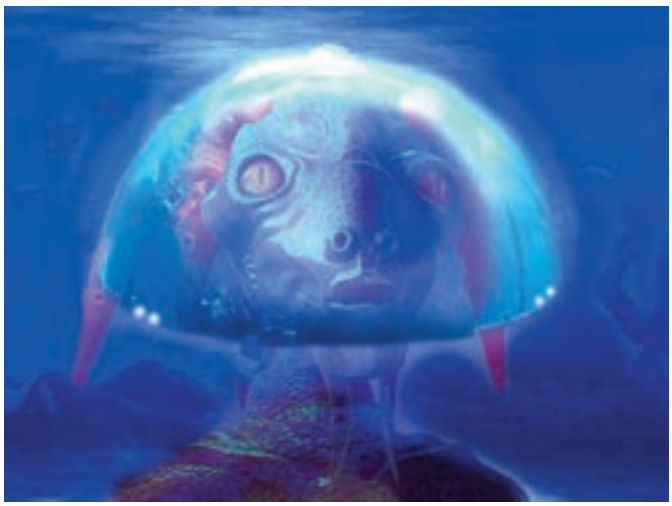
This account comes from a former Soviet military officer, Mark Shteynberg, in his article published in 1992 in the Russian paranormal magazine *Anomaliya* (issue 4).

In the summer of 1982, Shteynberg and Lieutenant Colonel Gennady Zverev were training reconnaissance divers ("frogmen") from Turkestan and other Central Asian military districts. Some of these training exercises took place in the waters of Issyk-Kul. The officers were paid an unexpected visit by an important official, Major General V. Demyanenko, Commander of the Military Diver Service of the Engineer Forces of the USSR Ministry of Defence. The purpose of his visit was to inform the local officers of an extraordinary event that had taken place during exercises in the Transbaikal and Siberian military districts.

At Lake Baikal, Southern Siberia, during military training dives, frogmen had encountered mysterious underwater "swimmers", very human-like except that their size was much larger at almost three metres tall. The swimmers were dressed in tight-fitting silvery suits despite the icy-cold water temperature. At a depth of 50 metres, these "swimmers" had neither scuba diving equipment nor any other gear except for sphere-like helmets that concealed their heads.

The local military commander, quite alarmed by such encounters, decided on a plan to capture one of the creatures. To undertake the mission, a special group of seven divers, under the direction of an officer, was dispatched. Apparently, as the frogmen tried to cover one of the creatures with a net, the entire group was propelled out of the deep water to above the surface by some powerful, unknown force.

In those days, divers' equipment did not allow rapid ascent from such depths without strict adherence to the decompression-stops process, so all of the members of the ill-fated expedition were stricken by aeroembolism or caisson disease. The only remedial treatment available then was immediate confinement under decompression conditions in a pressure chamber. There were several such pressure chambers in this military region, but only one was in working order. This chamber was built to contain no more than two persons at a time. Without having much choice, the local commander forced four frogmen into the chamber. As a result, three of them, including the group's leader, perished and the rest became invalids.



Artist's impression of the helmeted "swimmers" (Image: Daniel Del Toro)

Major General Demyanenko rushed to Issyk-Kul to warn the local military officers against undertaking any risky operations. Although Issyk-Kul is shallower than Lake Baikal, the depth of the former seemed to be sufficient to contain similar types of mysterious creatures. Did Demyanenko know something that Shteynberg did not? We shall never know.

However, a short time later, the staff headquarters of the Turkestan Military District received a notification from the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Land Forces. It consisted of a detailed analysis of the Lake Baikal events as well as cautionary advice. It was supplemented by an information bulletin from the headquarters of the Engineer Forces of the USSR Ministry of Defence. The bulletin listed numerous deep-water lakes where there had been recorded sightings of anomalous phenomena, unknown underwater creatures similar to the type seen at Lake Baikal, gigantic discs and spheres descending and surfacing, and brilliant luminescences emanating from the depths.

Such official documents, without exception, were highly classified and "for the eyes only" of a very limited circle of military officers. The purpose of such documents was "to prevent unnecessary encounters".

UFOs at Sarez Lake, Tajikistan

The territory under the military district jurisdiction where Mark Shteynberg served contains a water reservoir, Sarez Lake, located deep in the Pamir Mountains area of Tajikistan. It has a maximum depth of about 500 metres. Sarez Lake was formed in 1911 when a strong earthquake triggered a massive landslide that in turn created a huge dam, now called the Usoi Dam, along the Murghab River. This locality experiences considerable seismic activity even today. It is possible that part of the right bank may slump into the lake, generating an enormous wave that could flow over and breach the dam, causing catastrophic flooding downstream that would reach all the way to the Aral Sea. Since 2004, the lake has been checked for surging water levels and other problems that could lead to the dam's failure.

Sarez Lake could be seen by Soviet military personnel stationed at an observation point in the Pamir Mountains. They were tracking American Strategic Defense Initiative satellites with super-powerful instruments. The military sub-unit that had been doing the tracking at the time repeatedly registered disc-like objects travelling into and out of the lake.

According to a Soviet military report mentioned by Shteynberg in his 1992 article, UFOs allegedly had been "monitoring" Sarez Lake since the early 1980s.

UFOs at Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

Here are just two examples of many UFO observations reported from the Issyk-Kul area of Kyrgyzstan.

In February 1990 at Ak Suu Gorge near Issyk-Kul, local shepherds observed a large sphere at a distance of 700 metres. The sphere separated into four parts that flew off in different directions, only to rejoin half a minute later. This activity was repeated three times, and afterwards the sphere flew towards the lake. This report is published in Mikhail Yeltsin's 1992 book *Krazgdake NLO* ("To Find the Meaning of UFOs").

On 20 June 1990, an expedition of the SAKKUFON research organisation was on its way to the Tian Shan range on the Sino-Soviet border. It comprised scientists, military personnel, civilians, KGB officers and ufologists. Two eyewitnesses, both members of the expedition, observed a triangular UFO at the lake. The object moved at a low altitude, turned around and simply vanished. The UFO had bright, luminescent lights and its altitude was about 20 metres. Later, it flew over the main group of the expedition.

USOs in Russia's Northern Seas

Many sightings from the Issyk-Kul and Sarez Lake areas are similar to those reported in other lakes as well as seas.

According to V. Pravdivtsev, a Russian colonel, scientist and film director, the most frequent observations of unidentified submersible objects (USOs) during the 1980s were registered in the northern seas of the Soviet Union. He states this in his article "*Kto vi, ikhtiandri?*" ("Who are you, fishmen?") in *Na Grani Nevozmozhnogo* newspaper in 2000 (issue 4[232]).

Pravdivtsev writes that Russian ufologists analysed the data and noted that, just in the years 1980 and 1981, residents of the Kola Peninsula had seen a number of USOs emerging from the seas.

Artist's impression of an unidentified submersible object or USO (Image: Modo)

Amphibian Giants and Expeditions to Tibet

Russian writer Mikhail Demidenko (who passed away in 2003) read Mark Shteynberg's 1992 article and recalled that while on assignment for the Union of Writers in 1986 in Irkutsk, Siberia, he had spent time at Lake Baikal. There he learned from local fishermen that some years beforehand they had observed Soviet frogmen being propelled out of the lake to a height of 10 to 15 metres. The locals never found out why the divers had behaved in this manner. Demidenko thought this was the same episode as in Shteynberg's account and he contacted his sources in the highest echelons of the Russian Armed Forces, but all to no avail. Finally, he spoke with a colonel from the Chief Directorate of Logistics who did try to help him. Demidenko found out from him later that any report about the event would be kept in a special archive that could only be accessed with top-secret clearance.

Demidenko was a true humanitarian who hated any type of totalitarianism. He was a tolerant man who had survived the Nazi occupation and Nazi atrocities committed against the Soviet Jews. As a young man, Demidenko, upon graduation from military college, became a translator and interpreter of Chinese languages. He was dispatched by the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces to Red China's Air Force headquarters and also served in North Korea during the war. Later, he travelled through China to Western Tibet. He became a well-known author and scriptwriter, and visited various countries in Southeast Asia and Europe. He collected material to write a number of fascinating books including his last, published in 1999: *Po sledam SS v Tibet* ("Following the SS Trail into Tibet").

In 1954, Mikhail Demidenko accompanied high-ranking Beijing-based and Soviet military commanders on their inspections of Red Chinese troops in Xinjiang Province (Uyghur Autonomous Region) and Western Tibet, where the group spent a night in a Lamaist monastery. There, Demidenko met with an old Buddhist monk, a Russian-speaking Mongol, who spoke about many fascinating subjects, such as caves in the Tibetan mountains where three-metre-tall giants remain in an anaesthesia-induced sleep but will wake up one day. Later, Demidenko heard stories that Red Chinese troops had entered one of these sacred caves, removed one of the "sleeping amphibian giants" and publicly hanged it.

As Demidenko's well-researched book demonstrates, the occult-worshipping Nazis were quite aware of the legends of giants and underground cities in Tibet. This is why Hitler sent his SS expeditions there, as he was certain that these giant demigods would confirm his theories. In his book, there is more information regarding the giants and a wealth of historical detail about Hitler's expeditions, secret archives and strange events.

UFO Incidents around Lake Baikal and Buryatiya

In 1904 there were numerous UFO reports in the Lake Baikal region: black objects with searchlights in the sky, objects with strange "wheels" that rotated and opened multicoloured lights, cigar-shaped objects with "signal" lights, and objects that performed complex manoeuvres and apparently also landed. Workers with the Trans-Baikal Railway sighted mysterious "spheres" that had rotating searchlights.

A very unusual incident took place in 1964 around Lake Baikal. An anti-aircraft missile unit, located about 25 kilometres from the city of Ulan-Ude, was attacked during the night of 17–18 May. A glow ascended over the lake on the evening and spread over the area. It was not any kind of weather phenomenon, nor was it the sunset. The unit personnel concluded that the taiga was ablaze.

Over the horizon, from the direction of the lake, a fiery orange sphere ascended. Like a living organism, the sphere pulsated, giving off a very strong, radiant glow.

The sphere was approximately the size of the midday Sun but not as bright, and could be viewed without the use of protective eyewear.

The military unit sounded an alarm. Before too long, it had lost communications capabilities and could hear only strong interference over its various devices. The unit had to resort to contacting the commanding officer over a regular telephone line.

The commanding officer ordered the missile unit to measure radiation every 30 minutes and send reports to the command centre. The personnel put on gas masks and protective clothing, but detected no radiation.

The fiery orange sphere continued its advance. Its glow radiated like a burning fog and enveloped everything in its path. The sphere approached the unit's position at the height of a telegraph pole, stopping along the way.

As it came closer, its brightness diminished almost as if it had given away all of its energy to the radiance it emitted.

When this radiance began to envelop the military installation, the commanding officer halted any attempts at trying to establish what the object was and instead ordered a lock-down of the compound, sealing it off from the outside world. The appropriate notifications of this incident were relayed to the local KGB, which quickly sent officers to the site.

Although the phenomenon was observed by a large number of military personnel, and KGB officers were also involved, there was never a satisfactory explanation for the events of 17–18 May 1964 at Lake Baikal.

Another incident, disclosed by V. Pupkov, a retired lieutenant colonel, took place in December 1980 at the Domna airfield in the Transbaikal Military District. Late one evening, a UFO appeared over the airfield as if out of nowhere. The object was red in colour, luminescent and shaped like a ring. It pulsated and emitted several reddish beams of light onto the ground. A MiG-23 jet fighter was scrambled to investigate. Colonel Antonetz, who flew the aircraft, reported the UFO to be at an altitude of 4,000 metres. The object slowly dimmed and disappeared from view.

...the UFO dispatched three small radiant spheres from its underside. They were yellow, pink and blue in colour, and flew off in different directions at the same speed...

Soon afterwards, a special commission arrived at the airfield, investigated the incident and took signed secrecy oaths from all of the witnesses. No one knows what happened to the official information that was collected regarding this incident. Many years later, after the fall of the USSR, Colonel Antonetz was appointed Commander of the Ukrainian Air Force.

The Republic of Buryatiya, which is part of the Russian Federation, is located in the central part of the Asian continent. Its total area is 351,300 square kilometres, about the same size as Germany. It is bordered by the Irkutsk and Chita regions, the Republic of Tuva, Mongolia and one of the most magnificent lakes in the world: Lake Baikal.

According to Buryat legend, Lake Baikal has no bottom and is connected with all the oceans, seas and rivers. Within its depths is the silver castle of Erlik Khan, the Ruler of Destinies.

Russian historian and writer Aleksey Tivanenko, who resides in the Republic of Buryatiya's capital city, Ulan-Ude, 100 kilometres southeast from Lake Baikal, has researched the history of the Siberian lake. According to him, UFOs have been observed around Lake Baikal over the last two centuries. There are records in 19th-century newspapers as well as in the Buryat people's legends.

Map of the Republic of Buryatiya in Southern Siberia, showing Lake Baikal; the inset indicates in red the Republic's location within the Russian Federation.

The Irkutsk chronicle of 1884, compiled by the historian N. S. Romanov, contains a description of a gigantic, glowing sphere with many portholes that was seen over Lake Baikal. There were numerous eyewitnesses to the phenomenon. At that time there were no aircraft or weather balloons that could be mistaken for UFOs.

In the autumn of 1965 an enormous, cigar-shaped, glowing object flew across Lake Baikal, leaving behind a typical inversion layer (as any jet aircraft would)—but absolutely no sound of any jet engine was heard. The length of the UFO was estimated to be about 250 metres. While approaching the Hamar-Daban mountain range, the UFO dispatched three small radiant spheres from its underside. They were yellow, pink and blue in colour, and flew off in different directions at the same speed as the cigar-shaped object. Many years later, Tivanenko found a report about this UFO in an official bulletin of the Commission for Anomalous Phenomena.

Tivanenko and other people who live in the region around Lake Baikal frequently observe UFOs over the lake and over Buryatiya.

There is a story that's well known to the inhabitants of Buryatiya. On one of the mountains surrounding the Kudara-Somon settlement, a manned apparatus landed and humanoids dressed in shining spacesuits exited the craft. Some locals, among them a district militia officer on motorcycle, set out to the UFO landing site but when they approached the object it flew towards Mongolia.

Tivanenko is referred to in an article, published in *People* newspaper on 17 July 2009, which described recent sightings of orange-coloured spheres over Lake Baikal. The spheres moved noiselessly, approaching each other and then moving apart. A reader commented in the online edition that he had observed the UFOs on the very same Saturday. They followed one another and glowed like searchlights at altitudes much lower than

those of satellites, but unlike satellites the UFOs vanished instantly. The reader said he'd seen similar objects in the previous year.

Tall Silvery Beings in Russia's West and East

Here we must delve into the secret Soviet SETKA UFO research program (1978–1991). Eduard A. Yermilov, a distinguished scientist with the prestigious Radiophysical Research Institute at Gorky (now Zizhny Novgorod), was involved with the SETKA Galaktika-AN program. He investigated the 1982 case that very likely involved the sighting of a humanoid "giant".

Borisoglebsk, located in the northeast of the Voronezh region in western Russia, is one of the most active areas for UFO sightings according to Alexander Plaksin, an expert with the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defence and a former leading participant in the SETKA program. A special military commission was created in the 1980s specifically to study UFOs in the area. The objects that were sighted and reported by military observers varied in size from that of a tennis ball to 200 metres in length and manoeuvred at speeds up to 600 kilometres per hour at altitudes up to 20 kilometres.

According to the Russian UFO researcher Mikhail Gershtein, Eduard Yermilov related that on 26 May 1982, during a MiG-21 jet fighter's loss of communication and subsequent crash, a UFO was seen at an altitude of 1,500 metres. A search-and-recovery operation was organised. On 27 May, two members of the search team, Junior Sergeant A. A. Panyukov and Private A. Yu. Kunin, walked into a clearing in the Povorino forest near Borisoglebsk where they observed a humanoid entity. It was 3.5 metres tall and dressed in silvery clothing which had a greenish tint to it. After the creature fled the site, the eyewitnesses heard an explosion and saw a luminous object take off, leaving a glowing trail as it disappeared beyond the trees.

This curious episode is confirmed by a former Soviet colonel, Gherman Kolchin, in his 1994 book *Fenomenon NLO: vzglyad iz Rossii* ("UFO phenomenon: A View from Russia"). Kolchin writes that Yermilov spoke about the Borisoglebsk jet crash and anomalous sightings to him and Arvid Mordvin-Schadro, who at the time were chiefs of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographical Society of the USSR.

The Russian newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* carried an article by A. Pavlov in its 1 December 2000 issue. It describes how a close relationship developed between Russian military officers and UFO researchers (among the latter was Dr Valeri Dvuzhilni, famous for his investigation of the 1986 UFO crash at Dalnegorsk in the Primorsky region in the Far East). Among the documents provided by the Commander of the Far Eastern Military District to local ufologists was one that mentions an interesting case from 1990. A military brigade from the Timofeyevka settlement was dispatched after a sentry had raised an alarm by firing a warning shot. He had caught sight of two beings, both clad in silvery overalls. They were about 2.5 metres tall and had come from a nearby oak grove. When he fired the shot, the "silvery ones" ran back into the oak grove. The soil was wet because of recent rain, and when Russian counterintelligence officers arrived at the site they discovered prints of large, shapeless "feet". Is this a connection with the mysterious "swimmers"?

Swimmers from the Baltic to the Black Seas

As we continued our research, it came as no surprise to learn of other reports of "swimmers" in Russian waters.

In an article published in *NLO* ("UFO") magazine in 2001 (issue 3), author Yekaterina Vorontsova writes that the Russian intelligence services declassified KGB files regarding the UFO phenomenon. This revelation could not have been a reference to the files that the KGB had declassified and turned over in September 1991 to the former Soviet cosmonaut and UFO researcher Pavel Popovich. According to the material that Vorontsova presents in her article, unusual fish were observed in 1984 by the crew of a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea. The three huge "fish" looked to be more like "swimmers" dressed in silvery suits. This sighting could not have been a case of mistaken identity as the "fish" were at a depth of 400 metres—which is far too deep for any human diver. The height of the swimmers was, again, about three metres. A Russian expert whom we'd consulted did not believe in the veracity of the information in the article. We asked *NLO* to put us in contact with the author, but unfortunately we did not receive a response.

D. Povaliyayev was hang-gliding over Kavgolovo in the Leningrad district in the early 1990s. There are lakes in the area and in one of them he noticed three giant "fish". He descended and was able to discern "swimmers" in silvery costumes. He mentions the episode in his 1995 book *Letuchi Gollandets* ("Flying Dutchman").

There have been many reported UFO sightings in the same area. Whether there is a link between the UFOs

and these most curious of creatures, we cannot say.

B. Borovikov hunted Black Sea sharks for many years, but something happened to this fisherman that abruptly put an end to this activity. In the Anapa area on the northern coast, he was diving to a depth of eight metres. He relates how he encountered three "gigantic beings" rising up from below. They were milky-white in colour and had humanoid faces and what resembled fishtails. The creature that was swimming ahead of its companions noticed Borovikov and stopped. It had large, bulging eyes which seemed to focus directly on him. The other two giant beings joined the first one. The first creature waved one of its hands (it was definitely a hand, with membranes between the fingers) towards Borovikov, and then all three of them moved closer and stopped a short distance from him. Next, they all turned around and simply swam away. Borovikov's experience is reported in the 1996 book *XX vek: khronika neobjasnimogo* ("XXth Century: A Chronicle of the Unexplained").

An Explanation from Hindu Mythology

Perhaps the answer as to the identity of the swimmers can be found in Hindu mythology.

In the Vedas, Indra was the god of the firmament, the atmosphere personified, and was in the first rank among the gods. Arjuna ("White") was Indra's son and had four brothers. When the five brothers went into exile for 13 years, Arjuna continued on a pilgrimage to the Himalayas to placate the gods and obtain celestial weapons from them for use in war. Although he initially battled Shiva, who had disguised himself, Arjuna, having found out Shiva's true identity, then worshipped him. Shiva gave him the *pashupata* (an antimissile-like warhead), one of his most powerful weapons. Indra and other deities came to Arjuna and gave him their own powerful weapons. Indra carried Arjuna in his vehicle to Indra's heaven. There, Arjuna was immersed in learning the correct way to use the weapons presented to him and promised Indra that he would never discharge these celestial weapons at mortals. Later, Indra sent Arjuna on a mission against the Daityas of the sea.

The Daityas were Titans, descendants of the avatar Kashyapa and the goddess Diti. They were a race of demons and giants who warred against the gods and interfered with their practices. Kashyapa's sons by Diti became the Asuras (Daityas), and his sons by Aditi (a sister of Diti) became the Devas (Adityas). The Nivata-Kavachas (meaning "clothed in impenetrable armour" or "of practical application – layer, garment") were Daityas. The Sanskrit name *Nivata-Kavacha*, according to Indian researcher-writer Jijith Nadumuri Ravi (see his website http://AncientVoice.wikidot.com), comprises *Ni* (meaning "no"), *vata* ("air") and *Kavacha* ("casing, shelter, garment, coat of mail"); therefore it can be translated as "sheltered in airless capsules" or "wearing garments without air". Some researchers interpret this to mean spacesuits. Ravi thinks it describes airtight garments or dwellings.

According to the *Mahabharata*, the celestial race of Asura (Danava) demons in Vedic mythology were 30 million in number and lived in the depths of the oceans. The Danavas were the sons of the goddess Danu. They revolted against the gods but were overpowered. After their defeat, the Danavas were cast into the deepest oceans and locked there forever by Indra.

The Churning of the Ocean of Milk, depicted in a bas-relief in the eastern gallery of the third enclosure at Cambodia's Angkor Wat. The Hindu god Vishnu is in the centre, his turtle avatar Kurma below, the Asuras at the left and the Devas at the right, and the Apsaras and Indra above. (Photo: Markalexander100)

As per Hindu mythology, the Nivata-Kavachas were the Danavas or demons. They were humanoid with fish-like characteristics. In the *Mahabharata*, the Nivata-Kavachas' destruction is described as one of Arjuna's exploits. Indra told Arjuna to do battle with the Nivata-Kavachas, whose strength was increasing; the gods were fearful of them. Indra said: "My enemies, those Danavas, named Nivata-Kavachas, dwell in the womb of the ocean." (*The Mahabharata of Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa*, Book 3, Section CLXVII, 1883–96 translation) Their capital city Hiranyapura was located on the other side of a great lake.

Ravi speculates that exotic tribes such as the Devas, Yakshas and Gandharvas, who are mentioned in the *Mahabharata*, were alien races or tribes from ancient human civilisations that interacted heavily with alien

Continued on page 83

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Strange Times...

[Editor's note: As well as a personal favourite, this is one of the most intriguing cases ever uncovered by NEXUS. Recent developments have lead to more information becoming available, which we'll be presenting in 2018.]

CoEVOLUTION: An Interplanetary Adventure

by Alec Newald © 1997–2017

In 1989 in New Zealand, Alec Newald returned from what was a three-hour drive—only to discover soon afterwards that he had missed 10 days of Earth time. – Editor

An Ancient History Lesson from the Future

"Now, how shall I start?" Zeena asked. "Perhaps with the Elders."

"Elders?" I chipped in.

"Like the Guardian you have just met. They are each many hundreds of Earth years old and have a very ancient lineage. Their ancestors, who are my ancestors, are also very distant ancestors of yours; at least in part they are.

"These distant common ancestors of ours came to Earth many times, but more important to you was the visit of two million years ago, your timescale. They were not the first [aliens] to visit. In fact, they and others have lived in and explored what you call your solar system for *hundreds of millions of years*.

"These travellers tidied up some earlier attempts to manufacture a race of humanoids on Earth, the end result being *Homo sapiens*. I will not go so far as to say that these ancient ancestors of mine were solely responsible for your race, for that was indeed a joint effort of many ETs [extraterrestrials], all of whom at some time have laid claim to manufacturing your race. This is not a deliberate lie on their behalf—just a slight exaggeration of the facts.

"In many ways you have manufactured or at least fine-tuned your own race, and it continues even at this very moment. This is mistakenly called *evolution*.

"It is important that you should know your own past, and that evolution as you understand it is a myth. The changes are never slow, but they are always planned. Later I shall show you that nothing in this universe—past, present or future in your timescale—is left to chance.

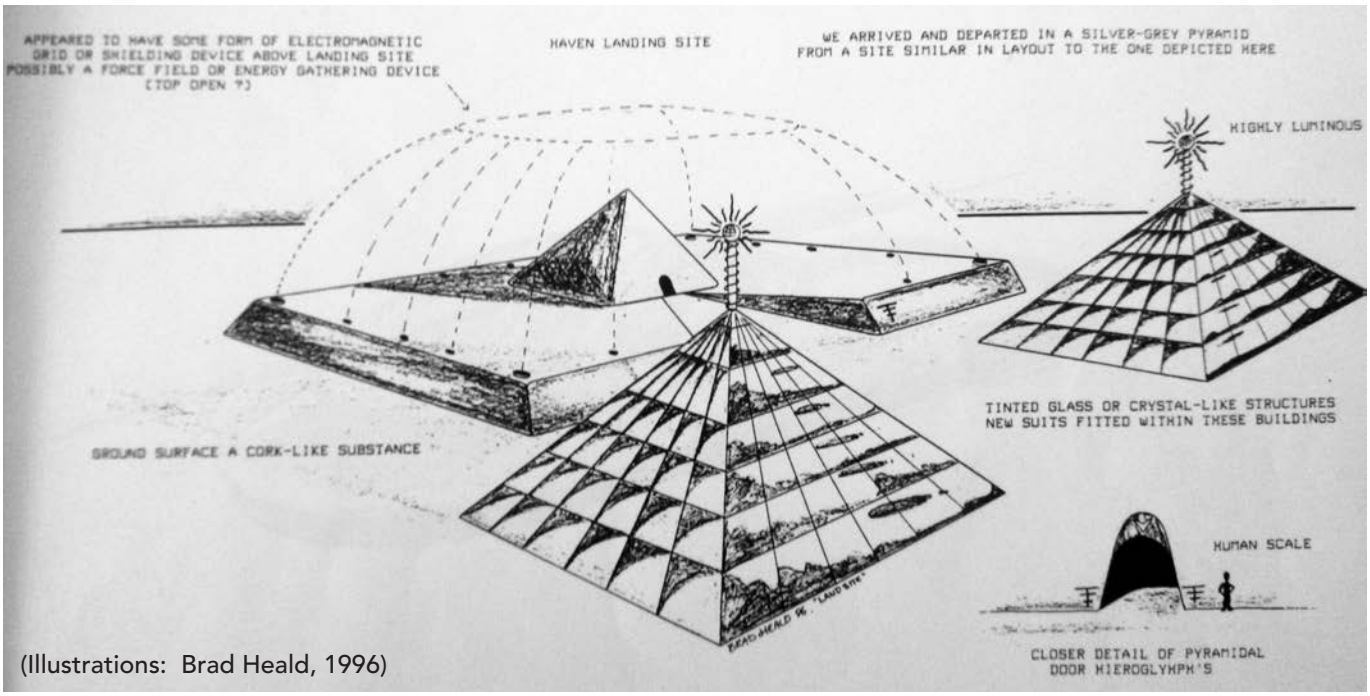
"Some of my ancient Elders stayed with your developing race. Others moved on. From time to time there were conflicts with other ET races as to what was best for one or the other, just as there are conflicts on your planet now, among your own kind.

"You must understand that Earth is a very special place. It is very beautiful and there are many who have desired to own it. I would not go so far as to say this is no longer the case, but you should always have your wits about you! Even *we*, although we do not wish to own it, would like to live there. But we cannot—indeed, we must not—interfere with the processes that are happening on your planet right now. That is not to say there are no other ET races that will not interfere, and that is why you must have your wits about you.

"Some of those processes which are occurring, or are about to occur, are the direct result of that seeding by our ancient Elders. Even the pyramids are ancient legacies left behind by our Elders to help you awaken when the time is right. They are very important to you, and it is from this front that progress of a most unexpected kind will manifest itself to your race in the not-too-distant future.

"All knowledge will be made available to your race in good time and in accordance with the laws of evolution. There has yet to be a force artificially manufactured in any universe that my people know of that is more powerful or wiser than this natural law. Trust me when I say this, for my race knows well the cost of interfering with the laws of evolution. We would warn your own people, if only those in control would listen. Alas, that approach appears to have fallen on deaf ears, so we shall now attempt to pass on the message in a different way.

An Elder or Guardian
(Illustration: Brad Heald, 1996)


APPEARED TO HAVE SOME FORM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC GRID OR SHIELDING DEVICE ABOVE LANDING SITE POSSIBLY A FORCE FIELD OR ENERGY GATHERING DEVICE (TOP OPEN ?)
HAVEN LANDING SITE
WE ARRIVED AND DEPARTED IN A SILVER-GREY PYRAMID FROM A SITE SIMILAR IN LAYOUT TO THE ONE DEPICTED HERE
HIGHLY LUMINOUS
TINTED GLASS OR CRYSTAL-LIKE STRUCTURES NEW SUITS FITTED WITHIN THESE BUILDINGS
GROUND SURFACE A CORK-LIKE SUBSTANCE
HUMAN SCALE
CLOSER DETAIL OF PYRAMIDAL DOOR HIEROGLYPH'S
(Illustrations: Brad Heald, 1996)

"There was indeed a time upon your planet, not so long ago in the context of this history lesson, when a *force* came down upon it and did in fact claim it [the Earth] and all upon it as its own. That force—and I know you will find this difficult to accept, Alec [Zeena used my name for the first time]—that force is still among you. It is indeed now a part of all of you, so I suppose you could say it still does own the planet in some way.

"After this force won your planet, it realised it would have a continuous fight on its hands, for you were not as you are now. You were well on your way to enlightenment, with a very strong spiritual base. You were actually almost as strong as this force itself. It had to trick you in order to master you, and while you were down it altered your make-up, your very structure; your DNA, in fact. It crippled you and stunted you, and set you back many thousands of years. It made you into what you are today, which is only a portion of the greatness you can be, for you have not yet even fully recovered. And if that force has its way, you never will!

"That force is known to most as the *force of darkness*, for it is indeed the enemy of enlightenment. You will please understand that this is a very simplistic description of a most complex entity. Even *we* do not understand it in its entirety. It is in the air that you breathe and everywhere about you. It has aligned itself to the planet and you. It beats to the pulse of your very planet, for you and the Earth are one and the same. This is one thing your peoples do not seem to comprehend, but you can use this union of the whole to do wondrous things, just as we have.

"Unfortunately, most of your kind fight the natural forces of your wondrous planet. By this I mean you bend them, even break them, to fit your needs. It need not be this way. If your people will just open their minds and hearts to your planet, as many of your ancient races have done in the past, it will show you the way. All is not lost; it just needs to be recalled. Until this is done, we have much need for concern.

"It is not just Earth planet you are violating as you bend and break Nature in your whims of fancy, for all of all is connected. This is really very basic knowledge. It has been ignored because it suits those who would play with power to ignore it. We and others are indeed benevolent to your race, as we all are connected, but soon something must be done before your play does meaningful harm to us all!

"We find that there is a need to teach you more about the dark force that permeates you. You would do well by your people if you took great heed of this lesson and passed on your findings to those of your kind who would listen. The dark force vibrates at a level that is compatible with your brainwave patterns. This much you should already know, but others of your kind have kept it from you.

"In spite of this, some, like you, Alec, are building a resistance to this alien intruder. This is one of the reasons why you find yourself thinking differently from the majority around you. It has enabled you to see more clearly the error of your ways and what must be done. You shall continue along this path a while longer yet, and even doubt your own kind from time to time. Be patient. This is all I can suggest, as inadequate as it may sound. We have been working on these things

with you for many a year now. All of your people will find their way with the passing of time.

"As you find with all afflictions, they are easier to contend with if you understand them. I am doing my best to explain all this to you in terms you will understand.

"Some on your planet have aligned themselves with this force. Note I have said 'aligned' and not 'allied', for there is a difference. Do you understand this? [I nodded.] They have gained much power from the force, and some are even foolish enough to think they have it under control. This is naïve, of course, as the force or alien entity is feeding off these people or, rather, feeding off the conflicts these people create in their bid for wealth and power. As long as this suits the dark force, it shall continue; for the *fear* emotion is what it lives off.

"The easiest way to defeat this force is to remove fear from your societies. This will, in effect, starve it out. It will then go elsewhere, looking for easier prey. You see, your human race is one of the very few that lives with this most unusual thing called *emotion*, which is why the force came here in the first place. We, too, had emotions once, so I am told, and some are saying we can now experience them again, thanks to the new breeding program we are experimenting with. Forgive me, I digress.

"You will find that some of your kind are trying very hard to harness this most dangerous force. Unfortunately, they do not fully understand that it is an entity in its own right and that this is a very dangerous mistake to be making. They think they are playing a game and that they are winning this game. We have tried to warn your people more than once in the past, but no heed has been taken. As your people say, 'It is *your* life'.

"Your societies, right from the very beginning, have engineered fear into your lives. Most of it is an artificial fear of society itself; in other words, you fear your very own laws. Your high priests from long ago shouted down to the common masses, describing what wraths would be set upon them if they did so much as *dare* to cross the all-mighty gods of their time."

Zeena did have some encouraging news. She suggested that the force would soon feel the weight of an invasion from above, and there would be battles fought at sea and underwater, and also in the skies high above. Most would know little about these events, except those caught within the by-product of the battles. By this she meant that the Earth would experience storms of gathering intensity, and where these storms would once have been confined to the vortex points of our globe (the western Atlantic–Bermuda area and the western Pacific, southeast of Japan) they would now appear randomly all over our planet. She did not say who or what might be behind these battles or be the cause of them. However, when the way is clear and some portion of the fear has been removed, *we may indeed see other races of the cosmos openly visiting and interacting with us here on Earth!*

"Your race is nearly strong enough to fight back and win its rightful place in this galaxy of ours. We will help you and your planet to do great things again, for we love all life. Even the dark force is a form of life and we must and do respect it. Do you understand, Alec? This is very important."

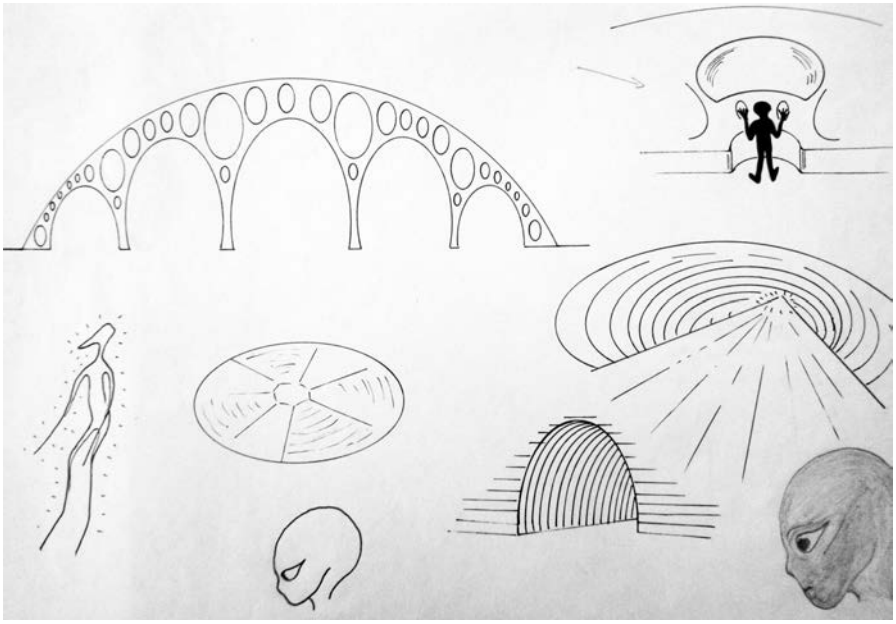
Zeena at last let me have a say.

"Yes, I do. But how do we fight this force if we cannot see it or know where it is?" I asked.

"It is within your very soul. You fight it with knowledge and understanding. But only each and every one of your kind can help yourselves. Nevertheless, to know that it exists is half the battle, and you can pass on this knowledge to all who should care to listen. Your race is about to change, become more aware—well, most of you are.

"It is an unfortunate fact that the ones upon your planet who truly understand what a great hold this force, known to you as fear, has over your people are the very ones who are using it against you—and always *have* used it. They only understand its power, not its reason for being.

"That is why we have chosen this time to explain to you, and others of your kind, what *we* are here for.



Impressions gleaned from early recollections and dreams. The dark figure is Alec playing a survival game simulation. (Illustrations: Alec Newald, 1989)

We have come to help enlighten you and, in so doing, perhaps free you from this force. We also understand that there will be some among you who will resent this knowledge being made available and will do their best to belittle it and downplay its importance to your race.

"We may also need things from you and your planet. Call it a trade if you like, but I would prefer to use the word *coevolution*. We both can grow. We both need to change. You will become more like us, while we need to become more like you. We can truly become great friends once you learn to break free. We have been waiting a long time for this to happen, and you, Alec, are part of this very special event that will happen, as are many others. You will find them and they will find you. Just let it be known that you are a child of the light, whenever you feel the time is right. You will be amazed at what will happen from then on."

Hidden ET Bases on Earth

Zeena continued once again.

"We have tried to live on Earth already but found our metabolisms unable to cope with the negative force and energy that pervade your planet. Mostly this has to do with the dark energy I mentioned earlier, which is not a native but a hybrid visitor designed to do the work of others. You don't realise how much resistance you have built up as a race, naturally combating this parasite. But we have little or no immunity to it and need to boost ourselves quickly and effectively."

Zeena wanted to help me come to grips with what she was saying.

"I have gained permission from the Elders to help you understand better what this coming war might be like. We have already told you there will be increasing storms and very unusual weather in all parts of your planet. This is part of an unseen war which is in fact a *mind war* to this point in time, but it could become far worse than that. Please let me explain why this could be so.

"The Earth and you are not dissimilar. The Earth has a body, just as you have. And Earth also has a consciousness, just as you have. Your consciousness resides outside your physical body. The air about the Earth contains its consciousness. The Earth has been infected by the dark force, both in mind and body.

"When I said you had built up a resistance to the force, this is only so far as the infection within the consciousness is concerned—in other words, the infection you are resistant to within the atmosphere—but you have not yet been exposed in full to the infection within the Earth's body.

"When we set up one of our bases at Southern Thule, there was good reason for this: not only was it isolated, which suited our work, but it was also infected beneath its surface with what I could call a *black plague*. It is like a concentration of negative energy. We wanted to see if we could nullify this plague before it made its way to the surface by accident or design. It is easier to control if it is kept near zero degrees, so it was best to work with it in the colder regions of your planet. Heat appears to be its friend. If it were ever released into the tropics, I don't think we could deal with it.

"Our interests as well as yours are endangered here. Somehow we must prevent this exposure. It was a setback to have our project at Southern Thule shut down, even after our friends in Argentina tried to help. We have since moved to another location where our work continues. It is not over yet.

"We have even stronger friends than those in the south of the Americas. Perhaps one day you will know this. But never forget that we are not friends of those of the stars and stripes. If someone tells you that your ET brothers and sisters are coming and to hold your hands to those that come to visit with the stars and stripes, let it be said there is danger in the air, for this could never happen.

"The battle in the atmosphere is the outward sign as the storms build in intensity. It shows that those who are manipulating the force are becoming increasingly desperate. Perhaps this will be a good sign for you. As some of you say, 'The darkest hours come before dawn'.

"Perhaps the best sign of the war's end is the appearance once more of the gold coin. I do not fully understand your monies and how you rate their worth. To us, gold can be food: you know this, for you are now partaking of it. We have seen the value of gold come and go with your peoples many times over the past few millennia. Perhaps today it is worth its least, as you do not use it as monies as you once did. Those of you who are our greatest enemies do not want the true value of gold to be known. So it is predicted that when a gold coin once again has true value to your people, the war will end. It is difficult for me to explain because, as I've said, I do not understand some of your values, and your food I understand even less." ∞

About the Author:

Alec Newald has been a professional yachtsman and sailmaker for most of his adult life. The author of *CoEvolution* (2011, 1997), Alec Newald was a speaker at NEXUS conferences in 1996, 2011 (see http://tinyurl.com/yczz8fez) and 2016 (http://tinyurl.com/yabupmbq).

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Editor's Note:

This article is edited from chapters 5 and 24 of the 2011 second edition of Alec Newald's *CoEvolution* (NEXUS, first edition 1997; reviewed in 4/03). A third edition with new chapters is to be published in 2018 by NEXUS.

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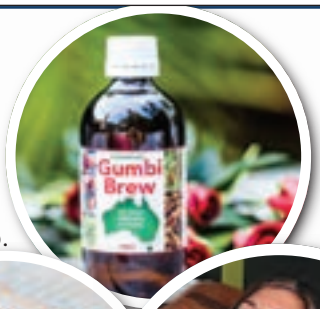

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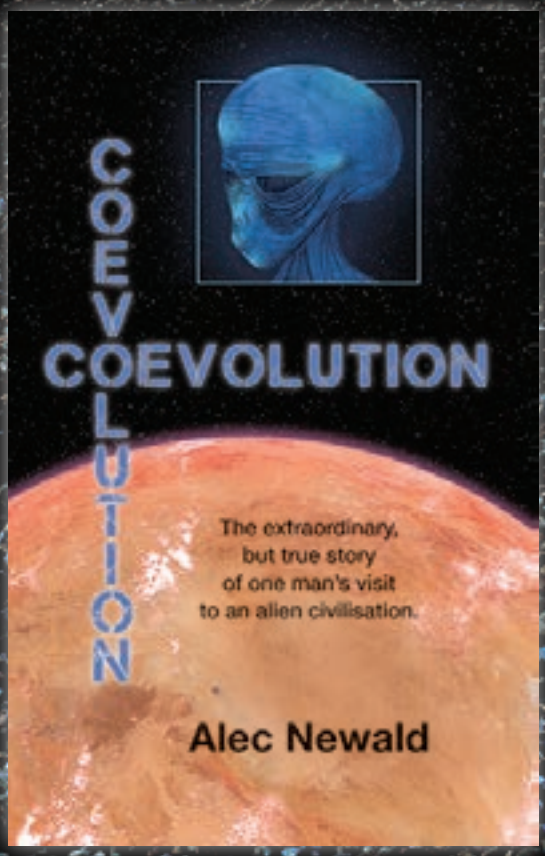

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SCHEDULE

DAY 1:

SPEAKERS

LIONEL LAUCH will open with smoking ceremony & Didgeridoo playing. STEVEN & EVAN STRONG, PAULINA HOWFIELD & ROB POTTER from California. Hear from our locals: MICHELE KINGSTON, LUISE DUFFY, SUE PLAVETIC & GUY DHARMA to close the day.

DAY 2:

SPEAKERS

MARY RODWELL, one of the biggest names in this field, begins this day, followed by LEA KAPITELI, MICHELLE DHARMA and the inspiring testimony of TONY RODRIGUES is followed by V.I.P guest: ROB POTTER.

ROUND TABLE

A highlight of the event! A moderated discussion with Q&A from the audience featuring our select panel of expert speakers.

DAY 3:

WORKSHOPS

9AM-12PM SESSION
-Mary Rodwell
-Sue Plavetic
-Michele Kingston
2PM-5PM SESSION
-Paulina Howfield
-Steven and Evan Strong
-Tony Rodrigues, with Guy & Michelle Dharma.

GALA DINNER

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WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT:

Human beings have been seperated from their Extra-Terrestrial soul lineage for centuries. This event is a gathering of keynote speakers, who through both research and personal experiences are uniting to present an alternative view on who we really are, who our Extra-Terrestrial family are, and our place in the universe.

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THE LANGUAGE OF PLANTS
edited by Monica Gagliano, John C. Ryan and Patrícia Vieira
University of Minnesota Press, 2017
ISBN 978-1-5179-0185-1 (335pp)
www.upress.umn.edu
www.newsouthbooks.com.au

It's only been in recent decades that the early naturalists' ideas about plants and trees have re-emerged. Instead of regarding the vegetal world as low-level life that also has a utilitarian function, we are starting to realise that plants have a special, inherent language and communicate with their own and other species. This collection of thoughtful essays by international academics is edited by evolutionary ecologist Dr Monica Gagliano (see 24/04, 24/05) and cultural theorist Dr John Ryan of the University of Western Australia, and linguist and media researcher Dr Patrícia Vieira of Georgetown University. The editors provide an extensive introduction and a paper each.

The contributors approach the subject from three angles: science, philosophy and literature. In the first section, they investigate plant versus animal communication, chemical "tongues", radiometric signals and meaningful activity. In the second, they ponder on what plants are saying to us and about themselves. In the third, they reflect on representations of flowers and plants in botany, culture, poetry, the ecosocial imagination and more.

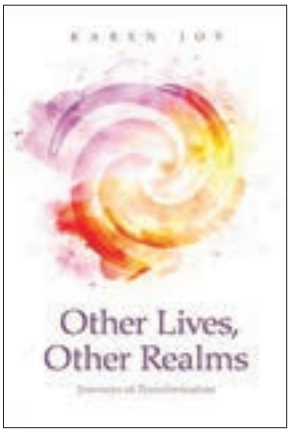
The cross-disciplinary framework of this book encourages a fresh appreciation of the plant kingdom.

OTHER LIVES, OTHER REALMS
by Karen Joy
MediaLuna, Qld, Australia, 2015
ISBN 978-0-9942567-0-6 (286pp)
lifebetweenlivesregression.com.au
www.nexusmagazine.com

With years of experience in psychology and hypnotherapy behind her, Karen Joy trained as a therapist in past-life and life-between-lives regressions with The Newton Institute (TNI) five years ago. Joy and her working partner Marie Benton have since conducted hundreds of regression sessions with their clients and have guided them towards receiving the information they need in order to change their lives for the better.

For her book, Joy has chosen over 50 case studies to illustrate the reality of past lives and the benefits of this form of regression therapy. She asserts that in our present life we can repeat past-life relationship patterns and emotional and physical traumas, but it's in our power to accept and resolve these issues.

Joy's clients have been able to rediscover their life's purpose and goals, understand why they chose their present-life body, meet loved ones from "the other side", grasp "the big picture" and discern what soulmates are all about. Their transformative experiences show that this guided technique has much to offer in helping people become more of who they truly are.



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YOUR BRAIN KNOWS MORE THAN YOU THINK
by Niels Birbaumer
Scribe, Australia and UK, 2017
(first published in German in 2014)
ISBN 978-1-925322-36-1 (263pp)
ISBN 978-1-911344-38-4 (UK)
www.scribepublications.com.au
www.scribepublications.co.uk

The prevailing notion that we can't change our behaviour or our thinking is wrong. We *can* change our brains by *training* them. It all comes down to neuroplasticity: the ability of the brain to remould or rewire itself. A leading expert in this field is neurobiologist Professor Niels Birbaumer, who also says that our personality develops in constant interaction with the environment.

Birbaumer explains how locked-in or paralysed patients can be taught to talk via imaging techniques, how the brain can learn to repair itself in cases of epilepsy or stroke, and how anxieties can be neutralised and ADHD controlled without resorting to drugs. Even psychopaths can become empathic, and Alzheimer's sufferers can modify their brain processes through music.

While neuroplasticity has limitless possibilities, it may not be a cure-all. Birbaumer advises that healthy wishes may result in compulsions and cravings, yet this observation may assist addicts to overcome their cycle of constantly wanting more. He has a realistic stance, warning against making value judgements about a person's happiness and advocating open-mindedness.

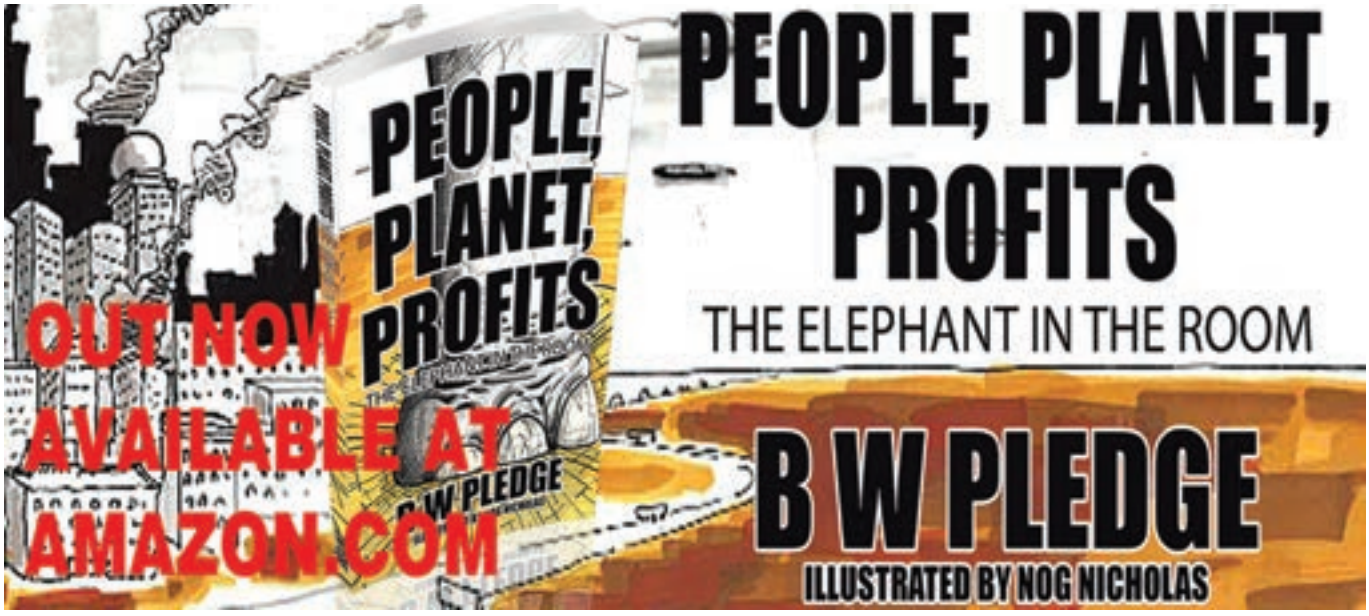
IT'S ALIVE!
by Toby Walsh
La Trobe Univ. Press with Black Inc., Vic., Aust., 2017 (published as *Android Dreams*, Hurst, UK, 2017)
ISBN 978-1-863959438 (330pp)
ISBN 978-1-849048712 (272pp hc)
www.blackincbooks.com
www.hurstpublishers.com

The dreams of science fiction are becoming reality, but technology is advancing more quickly than society can adapt to it. But we tend to overestimate the capabilities of artificial intelligence today and its promises for the near future, writes Dr Toby Walsh, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the University of New South Wales School of Computer Science and Engineering in Sydney (see Global News, 24/06).

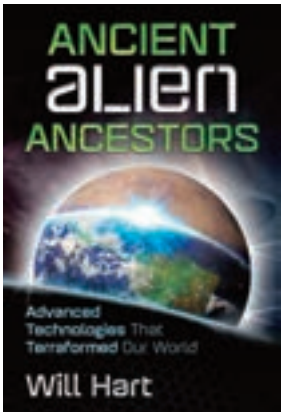
To comprehend where AI is taking us, Walsh says we first need to know where technology has come from. He analyses the state of the art of AI along with the risks, benefits and limits of "thinking machines", and posits that existential fear about Ray Kurzweil's famous "technological singularity" is baseless as this event may never arrive. He lists an A to Z of jobs that won't disappear—and ones that soon may not exist.

Walsh discusses what can be learned from the past 30 years of technological change, and gives 10 predictions of AI achievements expected to be the norm by 2050. However, he cautions that AI can lead to undesirable outcomes, destroying livelihoods, creating all-out warfare, increasing inequality, eroding our privacy and challenging our ethics. It's important that we ask which decisions we can hand over to machines, and we should welcome only those technologies into parts of our lives that will be enriched by having them.

This is essential reading for those who wonder what the future may hold—and want a say in it.



ANCIENT ALIEN ANCESTORS
by Will Hart
Bear & Company, VT, USA, 2017
ISBN 978-1-59143-253-1 (375pp)
www.BearandCompanyBooks.com



Expanding on his themes in *The Genesis Race* (11/01), Will Hart develops the idea of panspermia, now confirmed by new scientific findings, into *directed* panspermia. He proposes that an advanced extraterrestrial race terraformed the Earth, seeded life on our planet, genetically engineered our species and sparked the rise of civilisations.

It can't be accidental, he says, that major river deltas just happen to be located at 30° N latitude, that *Homo sapiens* shows all the signs of having been bioengineered, that the spread of different blood groups refutes the Out of Africa theory, and that sophisticated urban cultures in Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley arose fully formed.

Hart argues that the people of ancient Egypt—a "civilisation without cities"—were incapable of building the Giza pyramids, just as *we* are today. The evidence points to the intervention of beings with superior abilities in building and astronomy. Indeed, he claims that the three Giza pyramids express the ratios of the relative sizes of and distances between the Earth, Venus and Mercury—mathematical and astronomical knowledge not possessed by humans at the time.

In support of his advanced ETs thesis, Hart reports on significant UFO and abduction cases as well as the *vimana* aircraft referred to in the Vedic texts. Hart reasons that if scientists on Earth are already studying how to terraform Mars, it's not inconceivable that an advanced alien race could have terraformed Earth and seeded biological life.

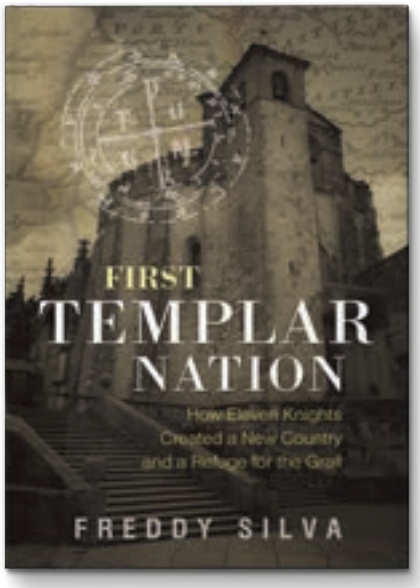
MANAGING MAGIC
by Grant Cameron
Itsallconnected Pub., Canada, 2017
ISBN 978-1-542857697 (339pp)
www.Amazon.com

Of three options on how to deal with the UFO issue from the US government's perspective, the acclimatisation plan is the most plausible. A total cover-up has been disproved over the decades and a full-disclosure plan is flawed. So concludes Grant Cameron, who has been researching UFOs for over 40 years and also manages the presidentialufo.com website.

Cameron outlines 64 reasons and excuses that may explain why the US government won't disclose the truth about UFOs, and number one is the mass panic that would ensue if it did. He summarises disclosure efforts from 1940 to 2017 involving key military and intelligence figures as well as potential "targets" and "couriers", and covers gradual leaks through films and the media, the role of disinformation agents, and comments from US Presidents. He examines the controversy over the Podesta UFO emails released by WikiLeaks in late 2016 as well as disclosure progress made by musician Tom DeLonge and Steven Greer, MD, with their high-level contacts and respective takes on "bad" and "good" aliens. He also reviews who *has* had and *still* has control of UFO secrets (he lists 14 "magicians" in the appendices) and what part the elusive Majestic 12 or MJ-12 may have played in investigating UFOs and ETs.

With new revelations about a "portal" off the coast of Georgia, USA, as well as hypotheses on the ETs' own lack of disclosure and the nature of consciousness, Grant Cameron's *Managing Magic* is an important ufology book for today.

– NEW RELEASES –



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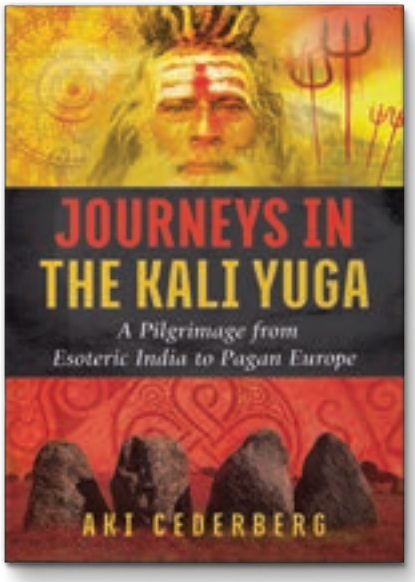

Journeys in the Kali Yuga
Aki Cederberg
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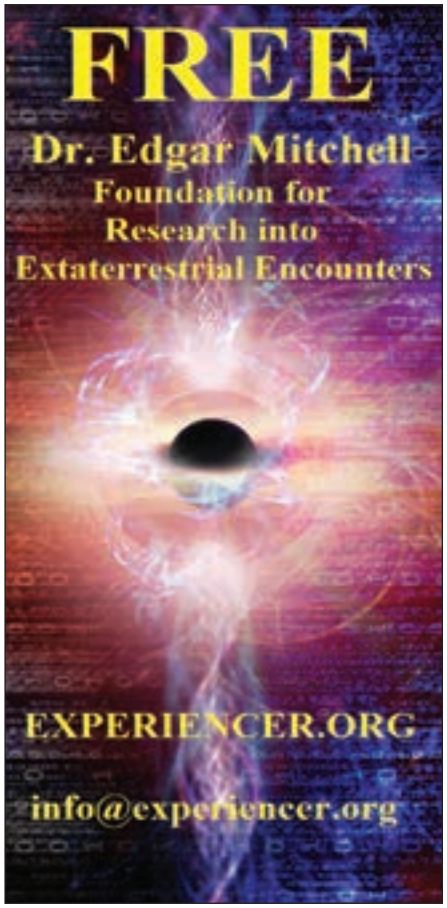

HESS AND THE PENGUINS
by Joseph P. Farrell
Adventures Unlimited Press, 2017
ISBN 978-1-939149-85-5 (269pp)
AdventuresUnlimitedPress.com

One of the great mysteries of the 20th century surrounds Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess. In 1941, he flew on an alleged peace mission to Scotland where he was arrested and held in British custody until being returned to Germany in 1946 to testify at the Nuremberg trials. After this he was sent to Spandau Prison in Berlin, where he remained until his 1987 "suicide". Nothing is as it seems in this "Hess Mess", says historian Joseph Farrell in his new book (also see reviews in 23/05, 22/06 and 21/06).

Among the many unresolved issues are the deep-state politics and royal machinations surrounding the plot to overthrow Hitler, alleged mind-control drugging and the involvement of *MK-Ultra* pioneer Dr Ewen Cameron, the apparent deployment of a body double, which helps account for the strange behaviour of "Hess" at Nuremberg, and the seeming impossibility that "Hess" could have committed suicide as a frail 93-year-old. In addition, Farrell exposes disturbing material suggesting that there were plans even before World War I to exterminate six million Jews.

As for penguins and Antarctica, Farrell discounts the idea that there was ever a Nazi "secret base" there, let alone any UFO agenda. But he acknowledges that the 1938–39 scientific expedition was linked with "Greater" Germany's geopolitical designs and gives credence to its moves for a permanent stake in Antarctica, perhaps taking over Norway's unexplored territories.

There's no shortage of intrigue in Farrell's speculative probe.

WHO'S WHO OF THE ELITE 2016 + THE ELITE CONTROL EVERYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE 2016
by Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr
RIE, LLC, Texas, USA, 2017
ISBN 978-0-9904492-5-6 (150pp)
ISBN 978-0-9904492-6-3 (276pp)
www.4rie.com

It's been an herculean labour over many years for Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr, to keep tabs on who's who of the elite in the USA and the world. In 1995 he published his first list of members of elite groups such as the Bilderbergs, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Skull & Bones Society, the Trilateral Commission and others (see 4/01), and since then he's produced a few revisions.

His latest updates of *Who's Who of the Elite* and *The Elite Control Everything of Significance* are current to 2016 as far as possible. The former is an A to Z of 15,783 past and present members of the elite worldwide. The latter lists 2,393 international members from 58 nations, plus past and present US individuals identified according to their affiliations in government, intelligence, public and private companies, universities, law firms, think tanks, media, film and publishing, manufacturing, religious organisations and more. Many names are well known and some aren't, but you'll still be astonished.

Ross lives in the hope that one day corruption and cronyism will be overcome, particularly in US federal and state governments, and by publishing his lists he aims to shine a light on shady officeholders and their dubious connections. In both books he includes introductory notes to help the reader make sense of the agendas of "those who would control the world"—the Rothschilds, of course, at the top.

THE VANDEMONIAN WAR
by Nick Brodie
Hardie Grant, Australia & UK, 2017
ISBN 978-1-74379-311-4 (425pp)
www.hardiegrant.com

When the British began to colonise Van Diemen's Land in 1803, the Aboriginal inhabitants, who had lived there for at least 30,000 years, well before it was cut off from mainland Australia about 10 millennia ago, numbered in the unknown thousands. As more British settlers arrived in what was still a penal colony—part of New South Wales until 1825, eventually becoming Tasmania in 1856—hostilities arose between them and the Indigenous population. But the violence stepped up another notch in 1825 when George Arthur took charge as Lieutenant Governor and Colonel Commanding.

Australian historian Nick Brodie has uncovered letters written by and to the Colonial Secretary's Office in Hobart and has accessed other archival sources that reveal the true nature of the war against the Aborigines. Lt Gov. Arthur had to wait for "legal" authorisation, but finally, with his April 1828 Partition Proclamation followed by his martial law declaration that November, he could officially enact his plans to drive the tribespeople to extinction.

The documents that Brodie has studied prove that the British Empire's functionaries committed genocide against the Aborigines in the late 1820s into the 1830s. It was waged through the command chains by military and paramilitary forces, aided by law officers—and the real history has been concealed by propaganda and lies until now.

This powerful alternative history overturns the myths of colonisation.

THE SEA CHART
by John Blake
Conway, UK, 2016 (2nd edition)
ISBN 978-1-84486-314-3 (186pp hc)
www.bloomsbury.com/uk
www.johnblake.org.uk

This book by retired Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander John Blake is a feast for the eyes. First published in 2004, it encapsulates Blake's keen knowledge of maritime history. This second edition has 44 more charts along with new text.

Blake begins with the portolan, a sea chart whose earliest surviving example dates to the late 13th century, and the use of directional devices such as wind roses and, later, compass roses. He describes the evolution of navigational tools, astronomical aids and surveying/charting techniques, along with the 1700s invention of the chronometer that could determine longitude accurately. Blake discusses the contexts in which these navigational charts developed, reflecting the aspirations of mariners of the time in trade, transport, warfare and expeditions to discover new lands and found colonial outposts. He includes navigational views of coastlines, designed to assist seafarers in finding safe harbours.

Also instructive are a number of "world maps" that Blake presents, including Ptolemy's c. 150–160 AD, Admiral Piri Re'is's of 1513 that was probably sourced from a much earlier map and shows part of Antarctica, and the Dieppe School's c. 1542 that pictures a portion of a supposedly unknown Australia.

In separate chapters, Blake features maps and charts of all the regions of the world, along with some ancestral maps, and tells the stories of sea voyages and the captains who commanded them.

A fascinating work, illustrating the trials and triumphs of exploration.

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FILM

REVIEWED BY RICHARD GILES

A QUEST TO HEAL: BEYOND THE PHYSICAL
directed by Michelle Mahrer
Michelle Mahrer Films, Sydney, Australia, 2017 (52mins)
www.aquesttohealmovie.com

In this moving film, Michelle Mahrer follows the journey of two friends—Lya Shaked from Australia who has terminal cancer, and Fred Porter from the USA who has HIV—on a healing odyssey to Brazil to see spiritual healer João Teixeira de Faria. Also known as John of God, he has helped work many miracles that science can't explain. For the past 30 years, thousands from all over the world have flocked to his remote village in search of cures that Western medicine can't provide. Lya and Fred undergo healing processes such as meditation, prayer and invisible spiritual operations.

A Quest to Heal invites us to consider new ways of healing beyond the Western medical model, and to explore the power of the heart in resolving mental and emotional issues as well. It also features interviews with several well-credentialled holistic medical practitioners and natural therapists.

This compelling documentary reveals how healing is so much more than simply curing the physical body: it is an empowering journey that begins from within.

GENERATION ZAPPED
directed by Sabine El Gemayel
Zapped Productions, Los Angeles, USA, 2017 (74mins)
www.generationzapped.com

In less than a generation, mobile phones and the Internet have revolutionised every aspect of our lives, transforming how we work, socialise and communicate. But what are the consequences for our health? This eye-opening film shows how wireless technology poses serious health risks including cancer, infertility, electromagnetic (EM) hypersensitivity and genetic mutations linked to autism.

Emerging science is revealing that some people are indeed suffering adverse health impacts from this EM radiation. Through interviews with 20 science and health experts as well as people who are highly sensitive to wireless radiation, the film suggests ways to reduce exposure and protect your family.

We meet people struggling with illnesses: a breast cancer survivor who carried her phone in her bra, a long-term cellphone user with brain cancer, and a seemingly healthy couple with neurological impacts now identified as linked to Wi-Fi®.

One of the interviewed experts, Dr Magda Havas of Trent University, Canada, warns: "A Wi-Fi classroom is like the inside of a microwave oven… Children are exposed to that Wi-Fi…every school day…"

This intensely thought-provoking documentary shines a light on this invisible danger and calls for the precautionary principle to be adopted with wireless technologies.

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www.fluoridealertaustralia.org

REVIEWED BY RICHARD GILES

HAR DAM SAHARA
by Rafiki Jazz
World Music Network, UK, 2017 (48mins)
www.worldmusic.net
www.rafikijazz.co.uk
www.theplanetcompany.com

Rafiki Jazz was formed in the UK in 2006, the result of a meeting of jazz and roots musicians with migrant and refugee origins. Their cross-cultural approach combines Hebrew, Islamic, Middle Eastern, Indian and other heritages. Avital Raz and Sarah Yaseen are the lead singers, founder Tony Koni is on bass, Cath Carr on guitar, Johnny Ball on tabla, Mina Salama on oud, Vijay Venkat on violin, Kadialy Kouyate on kora and Guery Tibirika on berimbau, with more instruments included. Most of this recording is live, and the music is magnetic with harmonising vocals. The title *Har Dam Sahara* means "in life's every moment there is always support". Enticing multicultural sounds.

LIVE IN MOSTAR
by Divanhana
ARC Music, UK, 2017 (CD 50mins & DVD 60mins)
www.arcmusic.co.uk

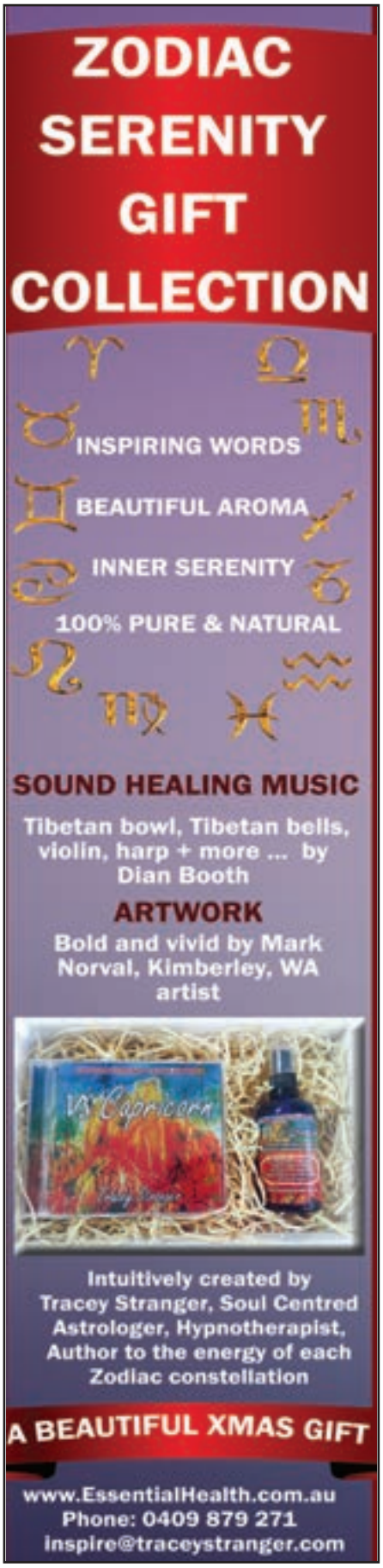
Divanhana, founded in 2009, is a group of six musicians from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The CD/DVD is from a Sevdah concert recorded in Mostar. Sevdah, or Sevdalinka, is traditional music from the region, characterised by a slow or moderate tempo and intense, emotional melodies. The songs are very elaborate, charged with melancholy and sung with passion and fervour. The album includes live and studio tracks. On the DVD are live performances and interviews with the band members. Capturing the Sevdah spirit, this album is highly recommended.

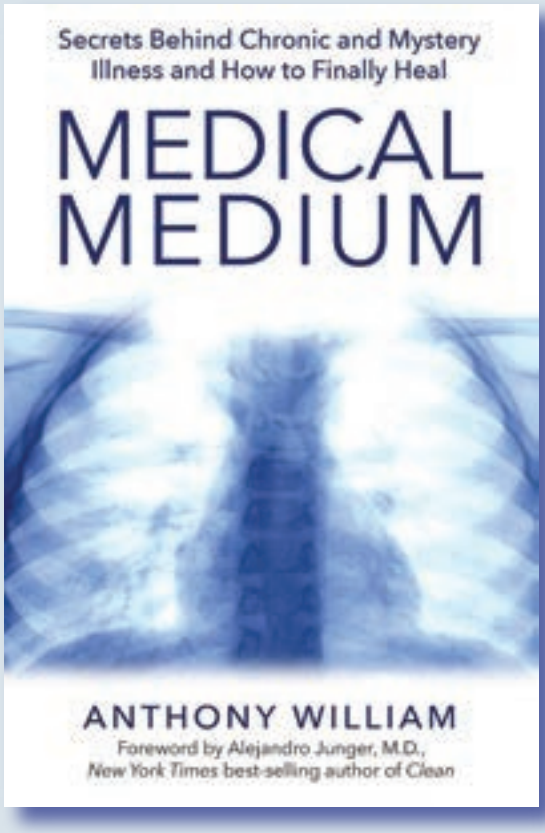
WHY DID WE STOP GROWING TALL?
by Abatwa (The Pygmy)
GlitterBeat Records, Germany, 2017 (35mins)
www.glitterbeat.com
www.theplanetcompany.com

This quirkily titled album is from the Abatwa (pygmy) of Rwanda, among the most marginalised people in Africa. A featured instrument is the mesmerising 11-string icyembe that is almost as tall as the players. Abatwa singing is often backed by the umuduli (a one-string fiddle) and battery-powered loop machines. The tracks are simple but can be unnerving: the call-and-response vocals of "Protect the Environment" have a mournful tone, and a 19-year-old, Rosine, does a powerful rap rendition with "The Child from the Streets". A remarkable album.

JAPANESE TAIKO
by Joji Hirota & The London Taiko Drummers
ARC Music, UK, 2017 (71mins)
www.arcmusic.co.uk

Recorded in London, this album is the brainchild of Japanese master drummer Joji Hirota whose 40-year career has seen him perform at WOMAD and WOMEX festivals. Born on Hokkaido, Hirota studied at Kyoto's University of Arts and brought Taiko to the West in the 1970s. The London Taiko group has four male and eight female drummers. There is nothing like the fast pace of Taiko drumming: it requires great skill and precision. An exciting, totally involving album.




Secrets Behind Chronic and Mystery Illness and How to Finally Heal
MEDICAL MEDIUM
ANTHONY WILLIAM
Foreword by Alejandro Junger, M.D.,
New York Times best-selling author of Clean

HEALTH

NEW!

If you've been doctor-shopping for ages and your chronic "mystery illness" hasn't been treated, you can learn much from Anthony William's **Medical Medium** that you won't find anywhere else. William's healing knowledge was sparked at the age of four when "the Spirit of the Most High" began speaking into his ear and describing people's health afflictions—as this being still does.

William has advice on good gut health, detoxification, and foods to avoid or eat regularly (yes, fruit). He sets out a 28-day healing cleanse program, offers meditations for soul-healing and suggests how to ask for help from "essential angels". His diverse case histories attest to the success of his protocols.

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The Giants of Ancient Egypt Continued from page 58

Channel's *Ancient Aliens* and *Search for the Lost Giants* and has been on the BBC, Sky TV and Bosnian TV. He is currently involved in the *Road 2 Ruins* and *Ancient Tomorrow* US-based documentary projects. Videos of his worldwide explorations can be viewed on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/MegalithomaniaUK.

As well as coordinating the annual Megalithomania conferences and tours, Hugh Newman co-organises the Origins conferences in London with Andrew Collins. He has spoken at events in the UK, Malta, France, Peru, Egypt, Bosnia, Cambodia, Java and North America.

Newman will be co-hosting an Ancient Egypt tour in March 2018 and sharing his research on giants and megalithic technology. There will also be an extension tour to visit Byblos and Baalbek in Lebanon. Details are available at http://tinyurl.com/y9hbdroa.

Hugh Newman can be contacted via his website http://www.megalithomania.co.uk.

Endnotes

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20. http://tinyurl.com/ybjwscct

Anomalous Phenomena in Russia, Central Asia and Tibet Continued from page 67

beings. According to the *Mahabharata*, their territory was the Trans-Himalayas—but Ravi places it in Tibet in the surrounding Kailash Range and Manasasarovara (or Manasarovar) Lake, as the *Mahabharata* also mentions these places as abodes of these tribes. The names of these geographical features are retained even to this day. However, there was a tribe called the Manasa, referred to as from a region called Sakadwipa which is thought by many researchers to have been located further north and associated with places in Mongolia or Siberia.

The Nivata-Kavachas lived next to a large lake, but it is difficult to identify which one as there are several large lakes in Tibet, Central Asia, Russia and Western Asia. The Caspian Sea is the biggest of them. If we include the Siberia region, then Lake Baikal, too, is a possibility. The ancient literature describes the Nivata-Kavachas as living not just near a lake but *under* a lake or sea, although this is considered by many researchers to be an exaggeration. If we take this literally, then their city of Hiranyapura has to be regarded at least as an underwater city or, as some believe, a submerged spaceship.

We know from the *Mahabharata* that the Nivata-Kavachas were defeated by Arjuna. But perhaps some of them managed to escape and have continued to live in the oceans, seas, rivers and lakes of our planet… ∞

About the Authors:

• **Paul Stonehill** is a researcher and author with a focus on the paranormal and the unexplained. Originally from Ukraine, he now resides in California, USA. His YouTube channel dedicated to Eurasian paranormal research is at http://tinyurl.com/y8pcnawy. He has contributed many articles to NEXUS, most recently "Secrets and Treasures of the Mongol Empire" in 22/01. For more details, visit http://www.paulstonehillrussianufoandusoresearch.com. He can be contacted at rurcla@hotmail.com.

• **Philip Mantle** is a UFO researcher and author who lives in West Yorkshire, England. He is a former Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association and is the publisher of Flying Disk Press. His books include *Roswell Alien Autopsy* (2012, 2017). For more details, visit http://flyingdiskpress.blogspot.co.uk/. He can be contacted at philip.mantle@gmail.com.

Editor's Note:

This article is edited from chapter three of *Russia's USO Secrets* by Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle (Richard Dolan Press, USA, 2016). The authors have co-written several books about Russian UFO and USO phenomena, including *Russia's Roswell Incident* (2012) and *UFO Case Files of Russia* (2010).

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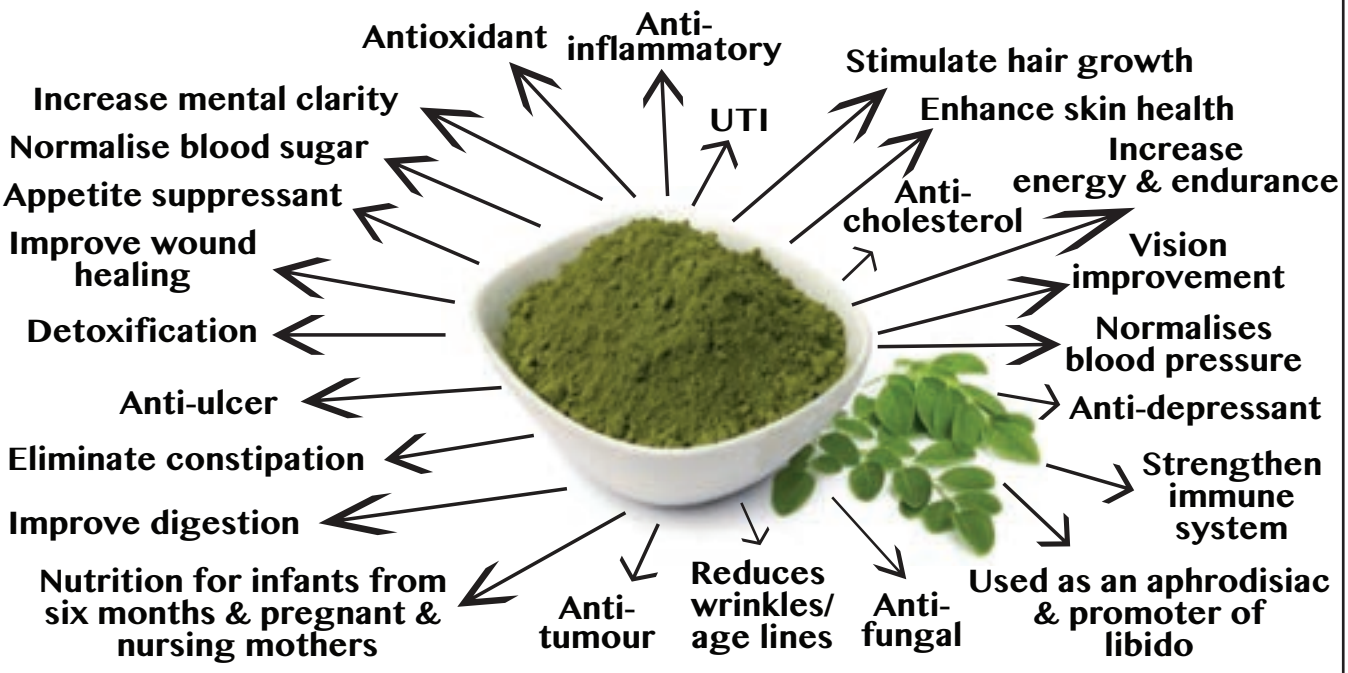

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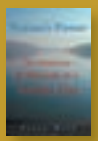

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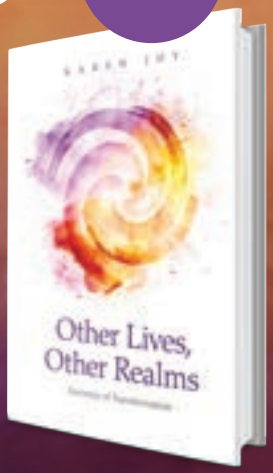

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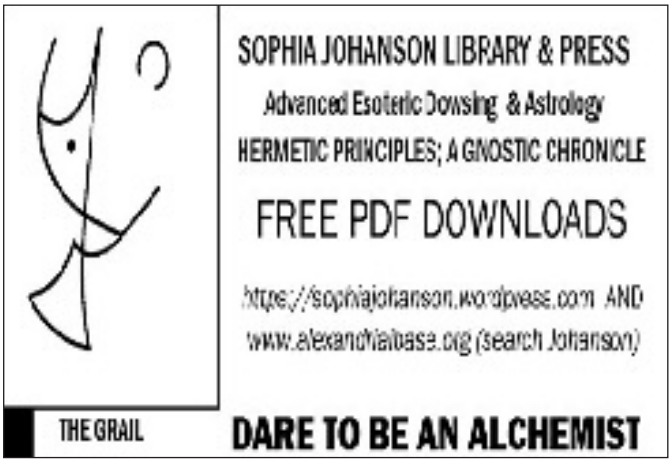

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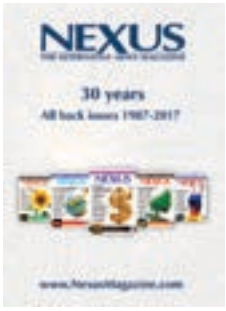

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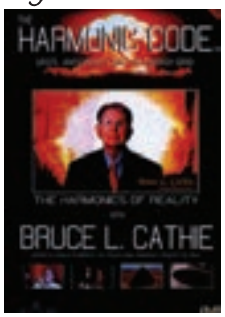

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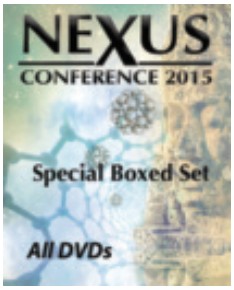

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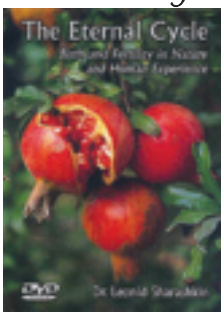

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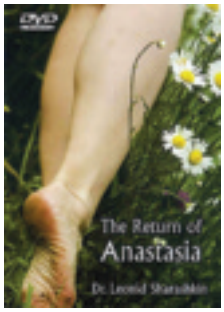

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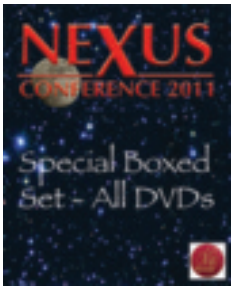

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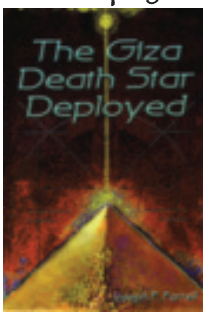

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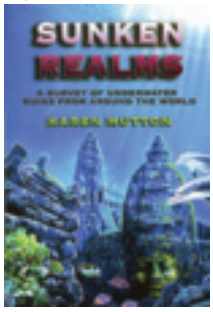

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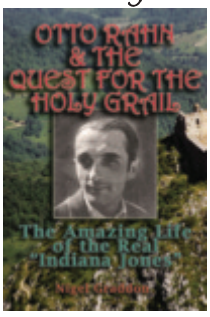

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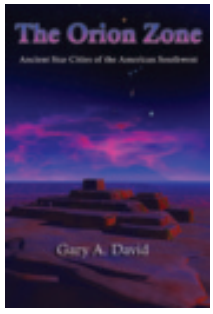

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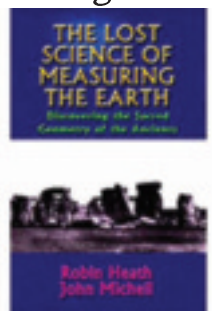

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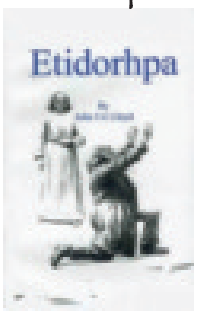

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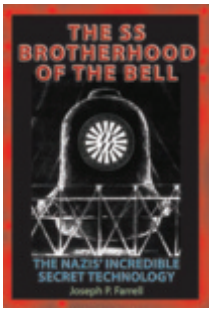

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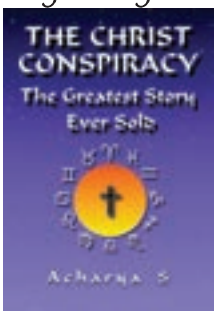

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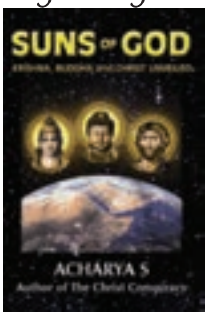

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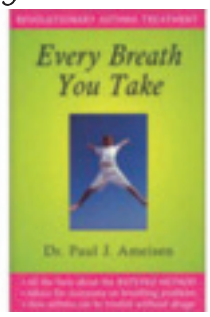

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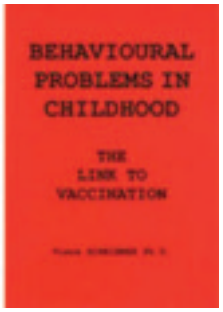

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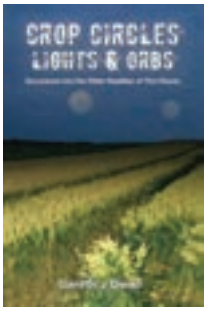

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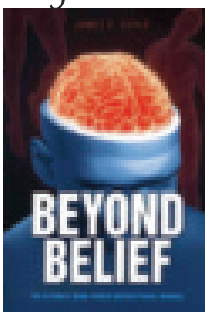

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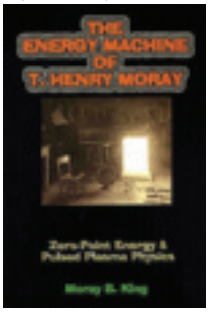

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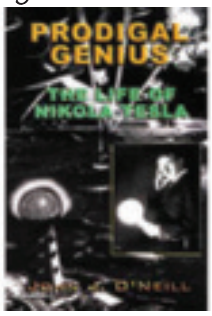

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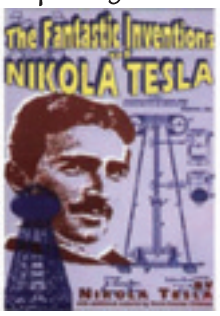

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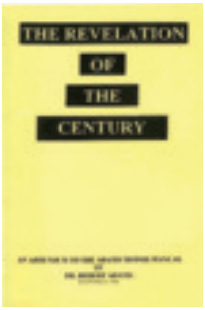

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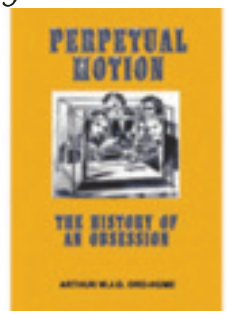

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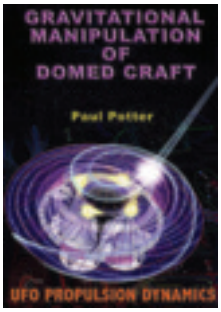

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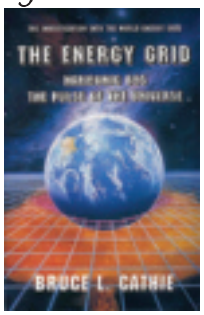

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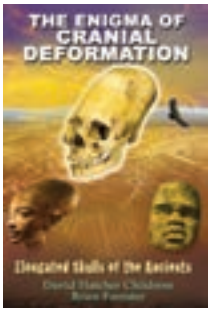

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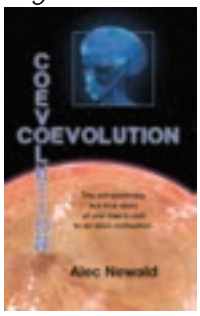

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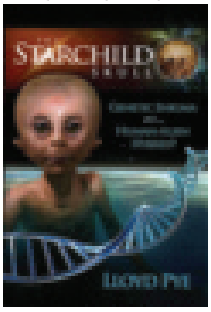

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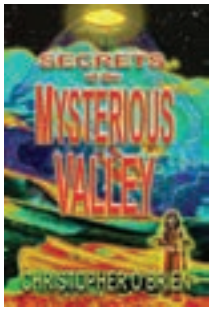

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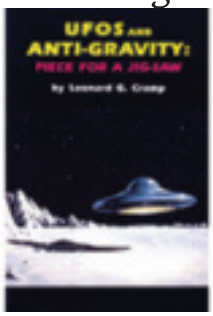

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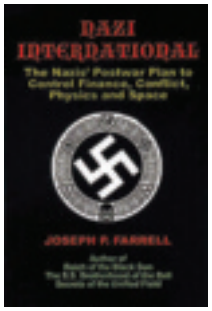

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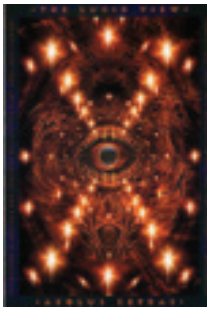

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So Present, Centered, Focused and Fulfilled: Hey Denis of Oz, You are a true Wizard! I started taking your Ormus last August and have had 4 bottles over that time. I must say thank you, thank you, thank you, to you and your Ormus because I have never felt so present, so centered, so on purpose, so connected, so blissful, so focused and so fulfilled than I did with your Ormus! I became a 'human-being' rather than just a 'human-doing'.
- Cheyne , The Profit Machine, Melbourne.

Your MA Ormus Really Does the Job!: *- With the first bottle of MA, I saw gold sparks, then money started coming from little wins and then some bigger ones. The dreamtime bottle really amps the dreams up, I dont wanna wake up; - Your Ormus really does the job. Cool to have found your stuff.* **- Kim McNab Parnell NZ**

I Am Happy Again: I am finishing my Ormus Bonus Pack and I must say things have certainly changed! I have fell in love and moved in with a wonderful man and have just left my job (after 10 years).
And I am Happy again! **- Tamlyn, Dandenong Vic Oz**

Effectiveness & Abundance: A friend came over before a busy show and I put 20 drops of your latest MA Supermoon Ormus in her kombucha drink. She can't stop getting everything done and she feels so happy. I had more luck again today too as I sold 2 dogs for $1100 to one farmer here. Thanks again Denis, Wowsa!
- Karen Albury NSW (Australia).

I FEEL THE LOOOOOOOVE!: Your 'Self Regeneration' Ormus is brilliant. Every ailment and injury I ever had has been visited from a few seconds to 24 hours, pained but not as bad as when they occurred, and then healed. Even from 1974! My meditations are also noticeably deeper. I have more energy too after having glandular fever so many times, a noticeable effect - and so quickly. My Hubby took it too. He is getting a strong effect, and is LOVING IT! Thank you so much. We got the Soul Freedom Pack Oh, and did I mention the LOOOOOOVE? Amazing! - **Toni, Robina (Australia).**

4 Times The Winnings:
After ordering some more Mother of Abundance (MA), I went to play Keno and the machine Lit Up! I went to the desk and was told I had won $8000. So I rang Denis and raved about it, It was 4 times what I won with the last MA **- Jon A, Whyalla SA Oz**

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